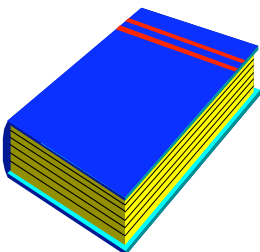


OBJECTIVE: The student will improve reading comprehension by determining the main idea of a passage.

Reading Comprehension

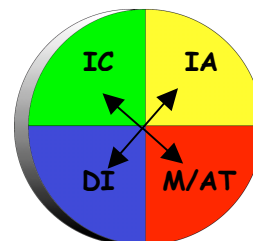


INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT:

- Reading Comprehension: Determining the main idea of a *paragraph*

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITY:

- *Check the Main Idea*
Purpose: This activity teaches students how to find the main idea of a paragraph or passage.



MATERIAL/AT:

- *High interest, controlled vocabulary* reading material: Expository text

DELIVERY OF INSTRUCTION:

Grouping: *Teacher-led group of three to four students*

1. *Explain to students that they will be learning how to determine the main idea of a paragraph and that this strategy will help them to become better readers and understand what they read.*
2. *Explain that the main idea is made up of who or what the paragraph is about and the most important information about the who or what. Give students an example that they can use to remind them how to figure out the main idea of a paragraph: For example you can ask students, "If I asked you, what is Joe going to do tonight? Would you tell me that Joe is going to eat meat and potatoes or Joe is going to eat dinner? In other words, which is the main idea? Joe is eating dinner or Joe is eating meat and potatoes." The main idea is that Joe is eating dinner and the meat and potatoes are other details.*
3. *Model the strategy as follows:*
 - Read a paragraph aloud.*
 - Identify who or what the paragraph is about.*
 - Identify the most important information about the who or what.*
 - Determine the main idea of the paragraph using the who or what and the most important information about the who or what.*

- *Tell the students that most of the sentences in the paragraph must be about the who or what and the most important information about the who or what.*
- *Reread the paragraph, one sentence at a time. After each sentence, ask the students if the sentence supports the main idea.*

Note: If needed, you can model determining a wrong main idea. Discuss why the main idea is wrong, based on the information in the paragraph and revise it accordingly.

- 4. Ask students to read the second paragraph and determine the main idea.*
 - 5. Call on one student to share his or her main idea. Have all students who agree with this main idea, put thumbs up; have all students who disagree put thumbs down.*
 - 6. If the majority of students disagree with this main idea, call on a second student to share his or her main idea. Have all students who agree with this main idea, put thumbs up; have all students who disagree put thumbs down.*
 - 7. When a main idea is agreed upon, read aloud the second paragraph to see if most of the sentences support the main idea.*
 - *Read one sentence at a time and say, "If this sentence supports the main idea, put your thumbs up. If this sentence does not, put your thumbs down."*
 - 8. Have students read a subsequent paragraph and determine the main idea.*
-

PROGRESS MONITORING:

After the lesson, check the students' work to ensure that they determined the main idea of the paragraph.

Periodically, provide students with appropriate level reading passages and comprehension questions. Identify the percentage of correct responses obtained by the students and determine whether satisfactory progress is being made to achieve the annual goals. Make instructional decisions as needed.