

Reciprocal Teaching

What is Reciprocal Teaching and why is it important?

Reciprocal Teaching is a strategy that encourages dialogue among a group of students as a way to improve their understanding of a text. Reciprocal Teaching is made up of four strategies: predicting, summarizing, question generating, and clarifying. The strategies are used in that order. Students alternate acting as student leader and using the four strategies to discuss segments of text information.

How can I use Reciprocal Teaching with my students?

Determine the portion of text to be read. Select a student leader to lead the discussion. The student leader predicts what the portion of text will be about. Students read the text segment. A student leader then summarizes the segment, asks questions, and clarifies information if needed. A new student leader predicts what might be in the next segment of text and continues with the Reciprocal Teaching steps. Students alternate as “leaders” until the whole text has been read.

Following is an excerpt of Reciprocal Teaching for an American History passage.

Prediction:	Leader:	My prediction for the next part of the story is: It is a story about the first americans.
	All:	(read text)
Summary:	Leader:	The first Americans were Indians. They lived in groups. One group was the Sioux.
Question:	Leader:	Who were the first Americans?
	Student 1:	Indians.
Question:	Leader:	Were there many Indian groups?
	Student 2:	Yes.
Question:	Leader:	Where did the Sioux Indians live?
	Student 3:	On the plains.
Clarification:	Leader:	Do you need clarification?
	Student 2:	Where are the plains?
	Leader:	The plains are flatlands out west.
Prediction:	New Leader:	My prediction for the next part of the text is: The Sioux were able to eat food from the plains.
	All:	(read text)
Summary:	Leader:	The Sioux hunted animals for food and hides. They made clothes out of hides.
Question:	Leader:	How did the Sioux get food?
	Student 2:	They hunted buffalo.
Question:	Leader:	What did the Sioux make their clothes from?
	Student 1:	Hides.
Clarification:	Leader:	Do you need me to explain?
	All:	No.