

Chunking

Rationale:

An important skill for students to practice is the ability to comprehend challenging texts. Chunking is an example of a strategy that helps students breakdown difficult text into more manageable pieces. Dividing content into smaller parts helps students identify key words and ideas, develops students' ability to paraphrase, and makes it easier for students to organize and synthesize information.

Step one: Preparation

Chunking can be used with challenging texts of any length. A paragraph can be chunked into phrases and sentences while a reading of several pages can be chunked into paragraphs or sections. You can write down your chunk on a graphic organizer or just in the margin of your paper.

Step two: Review reading strategies

As you read, remember to...

- Circle words that are unfamiliar.
- Use context clues to help define.
- Look up the meaning of unknown words.
- Write synonyms for these new words in the text.
- Underline important places and people and identify.
- Read aloud.
- Read multiple times.

Step three: Chunk the text

"Chunking the text" simply means breaking the text down into smaller parts. Sometimes teachers chunk the text in advance for you. Other times, teachers ask students to chunk the text.

Step four: Paraphrase meaning

You should rewrite "chunks" in your own words. By the end of this activity, you should have a paraphrased version of the original text.

Step five: Assessment and sharing

The paraphrased text can be used to evaluate your understanding and reading ability. You can compare your chunks of the text with other students to see what they got out of it. If they have something different, ask them to talk more about it so you can learn more. This step often leads to interesting discussion about interpretation – how people can often find different meaning in the same words?

This strategy will help you determine importance of what you read and be a great tool to study with!

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Key Words from Text	Theme	Paraphrase (in your own words)

Key Words from Text	Main Idea	Paraphrase (in your own words)