

ELA Strategies for Grades 4-6

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Instructional Strategies

Essential Questions

[Essential questions](#) are open-ended, thought-provoking, and important in helping students develop their understanding of a concept. There is no singular right answer, they help students move to higher-order thinking. Essential questions frame a unit of study as a problem to be solved. It may connect students' lived experiences and interests to problems in the world. It should connect what they learn back to the real world.

Repeated Reading

[Repeated reading](#) is an academic practice that aims to increase oral reading fluency. During repeated reading, a student sits in a quiet location with a teacher and reads a passage aloud at least three times. Typically, the teacher selects a passage of about 50 to 200 words in length. If the student misreads a word or hesitates for longer than 5 seconds, the teacher reads the word aloud, and the student repeats the word correctly. If the student requests help with a word, the teacher reads the word aloud or provides the definition.

Assessment Strategies

3-2-1 Format

The 3-2-1 Format can be a helpful tool for getting students to organize their thoughts, and promote reflection and metacognition. This activity provides an easy way to check for understanding and gauge student interest. It is also an effective way to promote, discuss, or review material. This activity would traditionally be introduced toward the end of a lesson or after a lecture. It could also be used in response to an assigned reading. In reaction to presented content, students are asked to take a few moments and jot down:

- 3 ideas or issues from what was presented
- 2 examples or uses for how the ideas could be implemented
- 1 unresolved area / muddiest point

Students are then asked to share their ideas in pairs or small groups. Use the responses to help guide teaching decisions. Consider areas of curriculum that need to be reviewed again or specific concepts or activities that are most interesting for students.



Classroom / Time Management Strategies

Flexible Seating

Flexible seating is basically any furniture that does not involve the traditional desk and chair aspect of classrooms. With flexible seating, traditional desk-and-chair combinations are replaced with a range of seating options and workstations that aim to increase engagement. Flexible seating applies to a wide variety of options. In its purest form, flexible seating replaces all traditional seating with a variety of seating arrangements found throughout the room. Often, students are allowed to choose seats within this environment. Flexible seating aims to increase activity, engagement, and focus. Benefits of [flexible seating](#) include: student empowerment, physical health, comfort, community, collaboration, and sensory input.