

Reciprocal Teaching

Adapted from Palincsar and Brown.

Step 1: Take time to help students learn about the four underpinnings of reciprocal teaching and learning. I read an informational text to the students and stop often throughout the reading to model the following processes.

- *Predict.* What do you think the next section is going to be about? What information might be included?
- *Clarify.* What did the author mean when he or she said _____? What does the word _____ mean on page _____?
- *Ask yourself questions.* What were the important ideas?
- Orally *summarize* the reading. State main ideas and important details up to this point in the reading.

Step 2: After several think aloud experiences with the process, students are ready to continue the process in small groups. The teacher is a member of the group and takes a turn as group leader, just as the students do. Reading segments are kept short so that the students can work together to negotiate meaning in manageable chunks. The group leader reads the cards shown on page 139, one at a time, and guides the discussion.

The cards are passed to the next group member and the process is repeated with the next segment of reading and a new group leader.

Reciprocal Teaching Cards

To use before each section.

<p>Card #1. "Please get ready to read to _____." (Select a boldfaced heading or an apparent stopping point in the text.)</p>	<p>Card #2. "I predict this section will be about _____." (Discussion leader speaks.)</p>
<p>Card #3. "Does anyone else have a prediction?" (Encourage group members to speak.)</p>	<p>Card #4. "Please read silently to the point we selected."</p>

To use after reading each section:

<p>Card #5. "Are there any words you thought were interesting?" (Invite group members to speak.)</p>	<p>Card #6. "Are there any ideas you found interesting or puzzling?" (Invite group members to contribute.)</p>
<p>Card #7. "Do you have comments about the reading?" (Group response.)</p>	<p>Card #8. "Summarize (in 2 or 3 sentences): This was about _____." (Discussion leader.)</p>

Pass the cards to the new leader.