

Ensure Students Are Learning: Faculty Descriptions of Innovative Teaching Practices

Universal Three-Step Process Adapted for Reading Skills Course

Innovative Teaching Practice Description:

Read-talk-write activities engage students in a three-step process in which they first read alone, then talk to their group about a question or problem, then present their ideas or findings on the board. This strategy seems to be a universal strategy that can apply to several types of courses; however, an instructor uses this group work activity to help students engage in reading and develop reading skills outside of the students' content-based courses. As such, in their reading skills class, the instructor has students identify patterns of organization in a paragraph using the read-talk-write exercise. Students independently read a paragraph on a PowerPoint slide, then work with their group to identify the pattern of organization and the type of paragraph it is. Having the groups write their answers on the board allows the class to compare answers and allows the instructor to see who is actively participating. This also makes it easier for the instructor to walk around the room and engage with each group. The instructor usually covers approximately 10 paragraphs per class. Depending on the course, the instructor uses this activity one to five times a semester.