

Comprehension Out Loud: Supporting Readers at the Secondary Level

_____ **Step One: Select a Passage**

Choose a 2-3 page passage that is challenging for most of the readers in your room. It should give you the chance to demonstrate one or two of the strategies that you would like your students to apply when they read.

_____ **Step Two: Define the WHAT, WHY and WHEN of the Strategies**

Before you begin your demonstration, define WHAT the strategies are, WHY you have chosen to illustrate them with this particular passage, and WHEN students should use them as readers.

_____ **Step Three: Set Your Purpose**

Define the purpose of the reading passage for your students before you begin your demonstration.

_____ **Step Four: Comprehend Out Loud and Ask Students to Annotate**

Read the passage aloud, and stop to demonstrate how YOU are making use of the strategies you've chosen to target. Articulate HOW you are thinking as you do this. Ask students to annotate the text as you do this, highlighting the key words that cued your use of a strategy. Discuss them when you are finished.

_____ **Step Six: Guide Their Practice**

Ask students to brainstorm how they might use these strategies in their own reading lives. Then, as they begin reading a piece for your class, ask them to make use of the strategy as they do so.

_____ **Step Seven: Assessing Their Progress**

As students read, capture your observations about their progress and confer with them about their use of the strategy. Require them to use sticky notes, journals, and graphic organizers to reflect how they are comprehending the content you've asked them to learn.

_____ **Step Eight: Ask Students to Reflect**

Requiring students to reflect on their use of these strategies, how they are progressing in their use of them, and how they might be able to improve allows them to monitor their own learning and progress.