

# ELA Strategies for Grades 7-12

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## Instructional Strategies

### Flipped Classroom

Instead of using classroom time for lecturing, you can provide students with a pre-recorded lecture to watch prior to class. The video is often concise and posted to sites like YouTube, or presented in the form of a podcast that students can listen to at home or during their commute. You can then use classroom time to engage students in learning activities related to the lecture they have already seen or heard. This technique is an effective instructional strategy that allows students to learn and review concepts at their own pace. Flipped learning helps keep students continuously engaged in class instead of just passively listening.

### Jigsaw

This strategy allows students to become “experts” on a topic, and then sharing that expertise with others. Divide a topic into a few parts, like *puzzle pieces*. Form groups of 3-5 students and assign each group a *piece* of the topic. The group’s task is to develop expertise on its topic by brainstorming, developing ideas, and researching. After the group work is complete, shuffle the groups so that the members of each new group have a different area of expertise. Students then take turns sharing their expertise with the other group members creating a completed *puzzle* of knowledge about the topic.

## Assessment Strategies

### Minute Paper

This technique is a quick and simple way to collect written feedback from students. Stop class a few minutes early and ask students to respond to a question or prompt allowing one minute for their response. Use questions that cause students to reflect on learning and make personal connections with prior information. Aim for questions that use higher level thinking skills such as:

*“What was the most important thing you learned during this class period?”*

*“What important question remains unanswered?”*

Students write their response on an index card and hand in when leaving the room. At the beginning of the next class, write a few of the responses on the board and discuss with the class.

### Graphic Organizers

Graphic organizers are an alternative to quizzes that allow you to catch misconceptions, see how students put ideas together, and find critical missing pieces. They provide a visual representation of a student's learning.

You can provide a template or allow students to create their own. An organizer will help students to process, reorganize, describe, connect, and visualize key concepts and supporting ideas.



## Classroom / Time Management Strategies

### High Expectations

#### **Set High Academic Expectations**

Challenge students to push themselves to do more. For those who struggle, you can scaffold, differentiate, and accommodate as needed. Encourage students to set academic goals and support them in their efforts.

#### **Set High Behavioral Expectations**

High school students want to be treated like adults, so hold them to high behavioral standards and support and guide them if they have struggle. Address inappropriate behavior privately and help students set realistic goals for behavior.

The resources listed are provided as options and examples.

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