

# ELA Strategies for Grades 7-12

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## Instructional Strategies

### Fishbowl

The purpose of this strategy is to observe your students' interactions in a group setting while providing opportunities for analysis and real-life illustrations of concepts. One group observes another group during a guided discussion.

Arrange students so that one group of students (inner circle) will take part in the discussion while the remainder of the class (outer circle) is positioned to observe the conversation.

Different processes can be used to switch students between discussion participants and focused listeners. You might have half the class discussing while half observe and then switch roles. Another strategy allows an observing student to tap a classmate when they want to switch and join the discussion.

Share expectations for students for both roles of participant and observer. Often you will want students to prepare for the discussion. Sometimes observers are focused on the information, ideas and opinions being shared and comparing it to their own.

[Guidelines \(barkleypd.com\)](http://barkleypd.com)

## Assessment Strategies

### Process Analysis

This strategy is perfect for understanding how your students process the skill of analyzing a text. A Process Analysis asks students to keep records of the actual steps (thinking) they take when analyzing a text. You can then use this diagnostic information to help students pinpoint problems in their process.

#### Step-by-Step Procedure:

Choose a text-dependent analysis assignment.

Inform students that they will be required to keep a record of their thinking and work process – actual steps, time taken for each step, and a description for each step.

Collect the Process Analysis along with the assignment.

Study the analyses for areas where students spend the most time, areas that should be part of the process but are not, etc.

Work with individual students to pinpoint problem areas.

Report findings back to the class and share areas of need and steps for improvement.

In addition, have students share success stories!



## Classroom / Time Management Strategies

### Getting Students' Attention

Getting and maintaining student attention at the upper grades can be a tricky task. Don't be afraid to mix it up, be creative, and maybe a little crazy! Try one of the following:

Clap or Snap Music

Give Me Five  
Hit the Lights

Countdown  
Sound Effects

Call-and-Response  
Non-Verbal Cue

Timer  
Phone App

The resources listed are provided as options and examples.

Pennsylvania does not require, recommend, or endorse any specific program or product. All curricular and instructional decisions are made at the local level.