

# ELA Strategies for Grades 4-6

Vol. 1 Issue 5  
July 2022

## Instructional Strategies

### Reader's Theatre

Reader's theater is a strategy to help develop/improve reading fluency. It involves students orally reading through scripts. This is also an opportunity for peer tutoring and collaborative work with others! In using this strategy, students read and reread the script several times, thus developing their fluency skills. They may read individually, with a partner, or in a small group. When choosing a script for Reader's Theatre, look for pieces that include lots of dialogue!

#### Benefits:

- Promotes fluency.
- Helps students learn to read aloud with expression.
- Builds reading confidence.

#### Steps for Reader's Theatre

- Choose a story/script that can be or already is divided into parts or characters.
- Assign reading parts to students or allow a group to work together to assign roles.
- Ask students to read their scripts orally for practice.
- Students read and reread their parts and practice with others. Students read (perform) the script for an audience.

[Reader's Theatre Scripts and Plays](#)

## Assessment Strategies

### Focused Listing

The purpose of this strategy is to help you determine if your students can recall the main points of a lesson. Follow the steps below:

- Write a word or brief phrase on the board about a topic you presented.
- Have students copy the word or phrase on a piece of paper, a whiteboard, Online discussion forum, or a Google Doc.
- Set a time limit, possibly 2-3 minutes.
- Ask students to list as many important words that relate to the topic.
- Collect the lists and determine appropriate and inappropriate responses.
- At the beginning of the next class, list the top 10 responses and discuss.
- Add your own response if students missed an important point.

### Concept Maps

You can use the responses from the Focused Listing activity to create concept maps. This strategy allows the student to demonstrate the relationships and connections between ideas. For younger students, you can provide the words/ideas on index cards and allow the student to manipulate the cards and use string to make the connections between the cards.



## Classroom / Time Management Strategies

### Daily Agenda Board

This strategy helps you and your students stay organized and focused on the day's tasks. A daily agenda board helps establish expectations and daily routine, saves valuable learning time, communicates learning goals, reduces disruptive behavior, and builds classroom community.

Designate a specific section of the board to list the daily agenda. As the day progresses, you can check off tasks that were completed and circle tasks that you didn't finish or that need revisiting the following day. This visual list is more than a schedule, it provides additional specific information. For example, you may list Reading as the topic but then sub-bullet specific tasks, such as: the name of the story, discussion of reading elements, journal entry, etc.



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.