

Probable Passage

The *Probable Passage* strategy establishes a purpose for reading. It also activates students' prior knowledge and builds active thinking about a topic by having students make predictions before reading. The activity helps students talk in small groups in an organized way.

Procedure:

1. Chose a set of 8-10 key terms from the article or chapter students are going to read.
2. Students will work in small groups to place the terms in categories you have established. Have them use the key terms to create a gist statement which they predict will summarize their reading.
3. Then they list things that they "hope to discover" based on the words they don't know or questions that came up during their small group work.
4. Before students begin reading, scan the passage together with the students, drawing their attention to the text structures (title, subtitles, graphics, examples, sidebars, etc.) You can use the informational text conventions chart with students to help them locate features of the passage that will help students comprehend the material better.
5. After students finish reading, explain to them that if their gist statement didn't match the reading completely, it isn't wrong. It was that their predictions were different from the reading.
6. Go over the "hope to discover" lists and talk about the questions that were/were not answered by the reading.