

Reading Comprehension Prompts for Students

Predicting:

- With a title like this, what is this reading probably about?
- What will happen next? (Turn to your partner and tell what might happen.)

Reflective questioning before reading:

- Why am I reading this?
- Why does the author think I should read this?
- What do I expect to learn from reading this?
- How does this relate to my life?
- What do I already know about this topic?

Reflective questioning after reading:

- What do I still not understand?
- What do I still want to know?
- What specific questions do I still have about this topic?

Evaluating:

- What is the most important idea that the author presents? Why?
- If I were the author, what would I say is the main point I was trying to make?

Paraphrasing or retelling:

- What was the reading about?
- Can I explain to my partner or group, in my own words, the meaning of what I just read?
- (The group or class also can engage in “group retelling,” with one student beginning and others picking up where the previous speaker leaves off.)

Summarizing:

- Can I identify all the key concepts from the reading and write a summary using these concepts?

Identifying words and meanings:

- Does that word or passage make sense? Why or why not?
- Can I find something about the passage that can help me make sense of it?
- Do I know something about an unfamiliar word or its context that can help me understand what it means?

Reflecting on reading strategy:

- If I were to read this again, what would I do differently knowing what I know now?
- What helped me most in figuring out what was confusing or unclear?
- What other things could I have done?