



Literacy Connects

*A Content Literacy Newsletter from Regional
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Strategies for Reading and Responding to an Article or Editorial

The ability to read, analyze and respond to articles and editorials is essential in both an academic and business setting. This activity encourages students to use the reading and writing process to generate a one-page reaction to an article or editorial that advances a certain point of view.

Read and Pre-write

1. Preview what you plan to read. Note author, author's credentials, title, headings, subheadings, pictures, graphs, italicized words, etc. Read first and last sentence of each paragraph. Read first and last paragraphs.
2. Based on your preview, what do you think this will be about? What do you know about this topic? What don't you know? What is your purpose for reading? Do you need to take notes? Would a graphic organizer be useful?
3. During reading, stop and question. Relate what you are reading to what you already know. Make connections, ask questions, summarize at the end of each paragraph and re-read what you can't explain.
4. Take notes. Divide your paper into two columns. In the left column, write main ideas, key words, and key points from the reading. You will use these notes when writing your summary. In the right column, write your own comments, reflections, reactions, connections, or questions. These will help you write your reaction paragraph.

Summarize (First paragraph)

Start by answering the following questions (Use your notes from the left column):

1. What are you summarizing? (Name the article, journal, date, author, credentials, and topic of discussion; write only one sentence)
2. How does the article begin? (Write only one sentence)
3. What is in the middle? (List each main point in order presented and author's view of each; write no more than three sentences)
5. How does it end? (In one sentence, sum up the author's overall view of the subject)

React/Respond/Comment/Evaluate (Second paragraph)

1. Begin with an overall statement of your opinion of the article. You can agree, disagree or qualify.
2. Using your comments in the right hand column, respond or react to each of the main points made by the author (main points should be in the middle part of your summary).
3. The concluding sentence should be your overall view of the topic.

Revise and Edit

1. Have you included the author's name, name of the article, journal and date?
2. Is the information complete?
3. Have you included only important information and deleted irrelevant or redundant information?
4. Is the information presented in the same order as the original article?
5. Are your opinions clear and well supported?
6. Read aloud. Does it read easily and smoothly?
7. Are there any words you need to change? Delete? Add?
8. Check for spelling, punctuation, and usage.