

Save the Last Word for Me

Save the Last Word for Me is an excellent strategy to use with complex texts that may elicit differing reactions or multiple representations. The structure of the collaborative group is controlled by the students rather than directed by the teacher.

PROCEDURE

1. Assign a section of text and ask students to find three to five quotes from the text that they think are particularly interesting. The quotes may be something they agree or disagree with, something they find interesting, something they didn't know, something they would like to tell someone about, etc.
2. Pass out index cards or slips of paper to each student, one card for each quote they have found. On one side of the card, ask students to write down the statements from the text. On the other side, instruct them to write any comments or feelings about their statements.
3. Divide the class into groups of 3-5 students. All students in the group are allowed to share one of their quote cards. The first student reads one of their quotes to the group and shows where to locate it in the text. However, the student isn't allowed to make any comments about his or her quote until the other members of the group give their reactions. Therefore, the student gets the last word in the discussion of the statement. This process continues until everyone in the group has shared at least one quote and has provided the last word in the discussion.

Advantages

*Students are mentored to adopt a more reflective stance as they read.

*Students are encouraged to talk about things in the reading that they personally connect to, and they all have equal opportunity (and expectation) to participate in a discussion on the reading.

* Students are able to hear classmates' views before offering their own, giving them the chance to adjust their comments and reflect on their ideas before expressing them to others.

NEPF Connections

Instructional Standards

S2.1, S2.2, S2.3, S2.4
S3.1, S 3.2, S3.3, 3.4
S4.1, S4.2, S4.3
S5.3

Ways to Respond to a Passage

- Why the passage was important
- What surprised you about that passage
- What you pictured when you read that part
- Connect the passage with something else in the article
- Add on to what someone else has said
- Ask a question: What does this passage make you wonder about?
- Connect the passage to a personal experience
- Connect the passage to another text, movie, television show, song, etc.

Consider using
with
*photos
*audio/video clips
*art work



SNRPDP

Adapted from Classroom Strategies for Interactive Learning, Buehl, D. & Texts and Lessons for Content-Area Reading, Daniels, H. & Steineke, N.