



ABC Brainstorm

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t3 Winter 2007

Description of ABC Brainstorm

- * List of words & phrases for every letter of the alphabet relating to a particular topic
- * Summarize with a general paragraph about the topic

<http://www.readingquest.org/strat/abc.html>

Purpose of ABC Brainstorm

- * Activate background knowledge to prepare students for discussion of a major topic

<http://www.readingquest.org/strat/abc.html>

- * “Engagement with the text is more likely to occur if students have opportunities to think about what they will be reading before they actually begin reading.”

(McLaughlin & Vogt, 2000, p. 18)

Steps for ABC Brainstorm

1. Identify the topic
2. List the letters of the alphabet (or use handouts)
3. Individually brainstorm words & phrases for each letter relating to the topic
4. Share ideas with a partner (think-pair-share)
5. Write a summary paragraph about the topic
6. Share ideas with the class

<http://www.readingquest.org/strat/abc.html>

Model for ABC Brainstorm

1. Topic: **Communities**
2. See handout for letters of the alphabet
3. Brainstorm individually
 - * Types, characteristics, people, etc.

Model for ABC Brainstorm

4. Pair up & share ideas
5. Write a summary paragraph about **communities**
6. Share ideas with the class

Reading Text

- * After activating background knowledge about **communities**, students will be prepared for reading the text:

Provensen, A., & Provensen, M. (1984).
Town & country. New York: Crown
Publishers, Inc..

CA & Elementary-Secondary Examples

Topic: **The American Revolution**

1. List, Group, Label (LGL)

- * Brainstorming activity including three parts

2. ABC Graffiti

- * Expanded version of ABC Brainstorm

NOTE: Both of the above strategies may be used AFTER reading in the middle and secondary levels

(Massey & Heafner, 2004)

Experts' Suggestions

- * “Provide instructional support that helps students to analyze the reading task that is ahead of them.”
- * “Help students to generate interest in the reading even if the topic doesn’t appeal to them.”
- * “Scaffold prereading experiences that engage students in thinking about ideas before they are encountered in text.”

(McLaughlin & Vogt, 2000, p. 18)

Reference List

- * Jones, R. C. (1998). Strategies for reading comprehension: Abc brainstorm. Retrieved March 15, 2007, from ReadingQuest Strategies Web site: <http://www.readingquest.org/strat/abc.html>
- * Massey, D. D., & Heafner, T. L. (2004). Promoting reading comprehension in social studies. *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*. 48, 26-40.
- * McLaughlin, M., & Vogt, M. (Eds.). (2000). *Creativity and Innovation in Content Area Teaching*. Norwood, MA: Christopher-Gordon Publishers, Inc..
- * Provensen, A., & Provensen, M. (1984). *Town & country*. New York: Crown Publishers, Inc..