

Story Impressions

Step-by-Step

- Preview a text section or story and identify a series of terms or 2-3 word phrases related to significant information or plot events.
- List the terms as they are presented in the text, in the order students will encounter them while reading. This step cues students to the sequence of events or cause/effect relationships.
- Create a handout with the terms arranged in a vertical column, connected by arrows to indicate order.
- Go through each word or phrase with the whole class. Question and/or clarify for meaning. Have students brainstorm possible connections to the chain of clues. Using what they might know about some of the terms, encourage them to make predictions about the content of the text.
- Have students draft their own impression of what a text might contain. First inform them of the context for the terms—textbook passage, short story, newspaper article, etc. Ask students to create a possible version of this text, based on their knowledge of the key terms.
- In the box adjacent to the word chains, have students write their predictions for the text. All terms from the chain must be used in their writing, and students should integrate them in the order that they appear on the list.
- Have partners share their predictions with each other and then share several with the whole class.
- Now that students have encountered key terms and concepts, activated relevant prior knowledge, and entertained predictions about the material, have them test their impressions by reading the text selection or story.
- As they read, have students check off the terms in the chain that they used accurately in their prediction summaries.
- To solidify new learning, have students write a second summary paragraph, again using all the terms in the order they are represented in the chain. Have them contrast their prediction summaries with the ones they wrote after reading the article to highlight any similarities between their impressions and the actual text.

