

Directed Reading/Thinking Activity

Description: Directed Reading-Thinking Activity (DRTA) is an instructional strategy designed to increase students' comprehension of reading material. DRTA allows students to actively seek an understanding of the selection by using prior knowledge and/or visual clues to anticipate content, then reading the text to confirm or reject predictions. This creates a purpose for reading, as students seek to answer their own questions or predictions.

Process:

- Use whole group instruction, pairs, or cooperative groups. Model with the whole group several times if the class is inexperienced with the strategy.
- Brainstorm with students (or have students brainstorm in groups) a list of what they think the selection will be about. Generate a list of possibilities, predictions, or questions that students want to have answered.
- After reading a segment, discuss (or have students discuss in groups) what they have discovered regarding their initial questions and predictions. Students must substantiate their statements by citing evidence from the text.
- Students circle or check correct predictions and cross-out or erase incorrect predictions. Identify which predictions remain inconclusive (without adequate evidence to support them, as yet).
- Repeat the cycle of Predict-Read-Confirm/Reject throughout the selection.

Variations may include the following:

- a) Students individually write their predictions in a double-entry journal.
- b) Students discuss or draw part of the predictions.
- c) Set up the model for DRTA as students might in a Science class: State Hypothesis (predict), Gather Data (supporting evidence), and Reach Conclusions (confirm/reject predictions based on the data). When reading literature, this variation is particularly effective when a major conflict has appeared in a story, and students use the model to make guesses about the outcome. In groups, students can gather evidence to support, refute, or revise their predictions and share evidence with the class.

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DRTA Prediction Log

Text Title/Author/Chapter:

Prediction/Hypothesis	Textual Evidence

DRTA Prediction Log

Hypothesis/Prediction	Confirmed? Rejected? Inconclusive?	Evidence

DR/TA

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What I know I know:

What I think I know:

What I think I'll learn:

What I know I learned: