



How to Use Questioning to Improve Reading Comprehension

Reasons for using questioning before, during, and after reading:

- To be clear about what you know or want to know
- To clarify the meaning of what you are reading
- To speculate about the text
- To focus on a particular part or idea in the text
- To locate an answer to a specific question
- Or, to reflect on what you've read

Questions to ask...

Before Reading:

1. What is your purpose for reading?
2. What do you predict the text will be about?
3. How do you feel about the topic?
4. What biases might you have about the topic because of your feelings towards it?
5. What do you already know or *think* you know about the topic?
6. What do you *need* to know about the topic?
7. What do you *want* to know about the topic?
8. What do you *predict* the text will tell you about the topic?

During Reading:

Construct your questions using one of these six basic question types:

- Who
- What
- When
- Where
- Why
- How

Examples:

You might ask:

- What does the author mean by ____?
- How does this relate to ____?
- Why is this ____?

OR

Make statements such as:

- I don't understand ____.
- I was confused by ____.

After Reading:

1. What did you learn?
2. Is there anything that was unclear? Write down some guide questions and go back and reread difficult passages with these questions in mind.
3. Did you find what you needed? If not, what else do you need to know?
4. Did you find the author's style persuasive? Why or why not?
5. Do you agree with what you read? Why or why not?
6. How does what you read compare to other things you've read on this topic?
7. What ideas stuck with you? Which ones do you want to investigate more?