

Reading Strategy—MAKE CONNECTIONS Some Suggestions



Goal: To encourage students to draw upon prior knowledge to make connections between the text of a reading and themselves, other readings and the world in order to clarify and extend understanding.

Making Connections...

1. Guides students to understand that what they already know helps them to learn;
2. Allows for meaningful conversations about a content topic even before students begin reading;
3. Helps students see knowledge as cumulative and integrated;
4. Supports students in creating prior knowledge necessary for future success.
5. It is IMPORTANT...
 - To model the skill, e.g. through a Think-Aloud activity;
 - To keep student focus relevant to selected content;
 - To encourage students to make a variety of connections, not just to themselves;
 - To use graphic organizers (when possible) to help students visualize connections;
 - To use follow-up questions so students think about how the connection has influenced their understanding (e.g. Exit Questions);
 - To encourage students to learn from others' connections.

Tools for MAKING CONNECTIONS...

- See the **Making Connections Activity**. This tool can be used in a variety of settings and modified as needed.

MAKE CONNECTIONS Activity



Goal: To encourage students to become intentional in making a variety of connections.

Directions: As you read the assigned reading, explain any connections you have made in each of the three categories below. Include location in text either by highlighting a sentence or citing the page number and paragraph number for each connection.

Connections to _____ (topic)

Type of Connection	Your Example
<p>Text to Self</p> <p>Connecting your own life to text. Think about past experiences and prior knowledge.</p>	<p>Citation from text:</p> <p>This reminds me of...</p>
<p>Text to Text (other Reading)</p> <p>Connecting one piece of text to another. Could be a book, an article, a movie, a script or song, anything that is written. Can also include a connection from one section of a reading to another or within the same resource.</p>	<p>Citation from text:</p> <p>This reminds me of...</p>
<p>Text to World</p> <p>Connecting something read to broader ideas, issues, patterns, or concepts.</p>	<p>Citation from text:</p> <p>This reminds me of...</p>