

Smart Strategies For Nonfiction Text Without Headings

This paper addresses reading, analyzing and interpreting nonfiction selections without headings with some overlap with text that have headings.

Most nonfiction STAAR Reading Test selections, with or without, headings are either descriptive((present and describe a topic), historical, or argumentative. Paired selections are typically descriptive, however, one set of questions require students to understand how compare/contrast structures work.

To analyze these texts effectively the first step is to outline the text by creating 3 sections: Beginning, Middle, and End.

Each of these sections will take a different form based on the author's purpose for writing the text as follows:

A topical selection is organized by first raising a topic and can be sectioned by writing questions that relate to : Topic, Consider possibilities, Reach a conclusion.

An historical selection can be sectioned as: Past, Present, Future. Inventions and discoveries such as medical breakthroughs follow a similar structure.

Argumentative selections typically begin by Presenting one side of an issue, Offer an another side of an issue, and end with a Decision or Asking the reader to make a decision about which side of the argument they accept.

Teaching Moves

- After completing a first draft reading, model for students identifying the text type.
- Think-aloud about how to break down the text into sections organizing into the following 3 sections:beginning, middle, and end.

- For example, if reading the Gettysburg Address after the initial(first draft) reading say something like, “ The Gettysburg Address is structured as historical discussing the past, present, and future. I will write headings for each of these sections.”For example for the first section, “What is the Gettysburg Address?”Or, “Why did Abraham Lincoln deliver the Gettysburg Address?” The question will is based on the purpose or context in which the Address is presented.
- Draw lines beneath the last paragraph for each section and write the heading above or next to the section. You may wish to draw lines connecting the paragraphs.
- Think-aloud and answer the question you posed for each section and write a brief note in the margin for each section.
- To conclude, write a summary using the marginalia. Begin the summary with a topic sentence that states the topic of the selection.

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