

Sketching Through the Text

What

This strategy asks students to draw their thinking in the margins while reading text, rather than jotting down ideas in words. The drawings are quick representations that represent words in the text. Students should make simple sketches that will jog their memory and foster discussion about the text. The idea is to make speedy sketches of their response, interpretation, or a key question they have based on the text.

Why

This strategy is similar to text coding or marginalia with the focus on drawing ideas and reflections. Allowing students to graphically represent their ideas helps meet diverse learning needs because some students can express themselves better with drawings than with written words.

How

1. Give the students a photocopy of an article.
2. As students are reading, students quickly draw simple pictures to help them remember thoughts they have about the text or important information they learned.
3. Pair students with a partner for a discussion about the article.
4. Partners should compare what each other sketched, connecting their thoughts to the sketches.
5. Have some students share their sketches with the class, possibly using a document camera to project the image for the class to see.

Adapted from: *Texts and Lessons for Content-Area Reading*, Harvey Daniels & Nancy Steineke, 2011, Heinemann.