

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR DISCUSSION

STEP 1: What is the issue or topic? My student friendly question ideas are...

WRITING QUESTIONS

- Includes multiple perspectives
- No new/unknown vocabulary
- Not too long
- Matches strategy

STEP 2: Identify the Competing Perspectives Inherent in Your Question (at least two, perhaps more, perspectives)

STEP 3: What types of readings will you provide for students? What common understanding do you hope to create? Where can you find great texts?

EXCERPTING IS YOUR FRIEND!

- Determine main theme and highlight areas of text.
- Cut & paste highlighted areas onto a document and then determine if cuts can be made (repetition, unnecessary info).
- Use ellipses to knock out extraneous information.

STEP 4: How will you get students deeply into the text? What can you do other than assign a text to individuals and have them answer questions?

STRATEGIES TO FIND EVIDENCE IN TEXT

- Annotation guide
- Text-dependent whole group questioning
- Finding evidence & bucketing in categories
- Claim, Reasoning, Evidence (outlining author's argument)
- Other:
(Don't forget to use line numbers! In WORD: page layout, line numbers, continuous)

STEP 5: Choose to have students a) write to prepare for discussion, or b) write to reflect and demonstrate learning. OR BOTH!

Consider...how will you know if students have attained the intended knowledge? How much evidence will you require in the writing? What types of writing assessment tools will you employ?

STEP 6: Which discussion strategy (or hybrid) will help you meet the goals of your discussion? Does your question fit well with this strategy?

STEP 7: Logistics

- How much time will you provide for preparation?
- How much time will you give the discussion?
- What norms will you teach?
- How will you set up your classroom?