

Literacy Strategies

Analogical Guide & Feature Analysis

Analogical guides and feature analysis are literacy strategies that help to increase students' interactions with the science concepts and ideas that are presented in various texts and help the students acquire and retain important content information. These literacy strategies and variations of these may be used prior to reading, during reading, and after reading.

The analogical guide is a form of a study guide developed for application in science classes while reading text. It can also be a useful tool for the teacher to share with students as special vocabulary and concepts are introduced. Feature analysis is a literacy strategy that helps to organize specific information about the concepts by providing a synopsis of the ways the identified technical concepts may be similar or different.

Both of these strategies are useful in helping students learn content specific vocabulary and increase students' comprehension of text that present new concepts. Teaching students to learn how to use these strategies will help them to become independent learners as they use the strategies to read other content area texts.

Effective Teachers Use Effective Strategies

In this chapter you will also find two lesson plans that accompany the Literacy and Learning video lesson on Analogical Guides and Feature Analysis. Jill Saia, a middle school science teacher who is National Board Certified in Early Adolescent Science, and who is the teacher in this video lesson, has written these. This highly qualified teacher effectively uses the strategies with her students, but in doing so, adapts the strategies to meet the unique needs and strengths of her particular learners. As you work with these strategies to support literacy and learning in your class, adapt the procedures to meet your goals and objectives within your community of learners.



Analogical Guide

Constructing an Analogical Guide

Readence, Bean and Baldwin (1995) suggest the following three important steps in constructing an analogical guide:

1. The teacher analyzes the reading task that is required of the students. The teacher does this by identifying the concepts the students are to acquire from their reading. In this video lesson all of the concepts are related to energy.
2. The second step is to create appropriate analogies that will help the students relate to the new science concepts. In the video lesson, the teacher chose the analogy of eating in a restaurant for the analogical guide in the energy lesson.
3. The third step is to explain how students can use the analogical guide to help them understand the science concepts and vocabulary that will be encountered.

As with any method or technique for supporting reading content area text, options or variations in using the literacy strategy can be used to best meet the needs of the students.

Analogical Guide for a Science Lesson on Energy

Dining at a Restaurant	Energy Related Terms

Analogical Guide