Increasing nonfiction reading comprehension in content areas
The Why?

- To increase quality student talk **about** nonfiction reading
- To increase reading (not oral) comprehension
- To create critical and engaged readers
What is Notice & Note?

- Adopt a Questioning Stance
- Notice & Note These Signposts
- And Use These Fix-Up Strategies

To Develop Understanding
What is nonfiction?

https://www.mentimeter.com/s/2d328ae8dd00c6874e45a382f9caea22
Possible Sentences

Using the 10 key words we identified from the Word Cloud, write 3 possible definitions (or explanations) of nonfiction.

- Each sentence must contain AT LEAST 3 of the identified words.
- Sentences should contain NO MORE than 5 of the identified words.
- Choose one of your sentences to share with the group.
Definition of nonfiction

Nonfiction is the body of work in which the author purports to tell us about the real world, a real experience, an idea, or a belief.

- Beers & Probst, 2016
What is Notice & Note?

ADOPT A Questioning Stance
- What surprised you?
- What did the author think you already knew?
- What changed, challenged, or confirmed what you already knew?

NOTICE & NOTE THESE Signposts
- Contrasts and Contradictions
- Extreme or Absolute Language
- Numbers and States
- Quoted Words
- Word Gaps

AND USE THESE FIX-UP Strategies
- Possible Sentences
- KWL 2.0
- Somebody Wanted But So
- Syntax Surgery
- Sketch to Stretch
- Genre Reformulation
- Poster

TO DEVELOP UNDERSTANDING
Adopting a Questioning Stance:

What Surprised Me?

- I was shocked about...
- I was surprised when...
- I never thought about...
- I could not believe...
Adopting a Questioning Stance:

What Did the Author Think I Already Knew?

- I did not know...
- I was confused by...
- The author assumed...
- The author thought I knew...
Adopting a Questioning Stance:

What Challenged, Changed, or Confirmed What I Knew?

- At first I thought, but...
- I had to rethink...
- I was right/wrong about...
Nonfiction Reading Promotes Student Success

As you read the article, make a note of the three big questions using following symbols:
Poster Strategy

Now that you’ve read and marked the article, please expand your thoughts on the poster.

- Write about why you agree or disagree with something.
- List questions.
- Draw what you see.
- Make a connection.
- Write a response to what others have said.
What Teachers & Students Say

“I think the ability for students to be able to identify what confuses them will help them focus on their areas for growth. It also helps as a formative assessment in guiding future instruction and for one on one intervention time for a teacher to know specifically the areas where students are frustrated.”

- Dave Browne, 9th grade physics teacher

“The interaction which incorporates these questions is a creative way to discuss the content, and a needed variation to the “find and seek” for answers only on a worksheet. This will truly help with comprehension. (I love the use of sticky notes with “what surprised me,” for example.) These practices help the reading to come alive!”

- Kathy Adriansen, middle school media specialist

What did you like about the poster activity?

How did it help you understand the reading?
When the 3 Big Questions Aren’t Enough

Need your students to dig deeper into the text? Feel like they’re just ‘doing the work’ when you use the big 3 questions? This is where the signposts come in...

Watch for the 5 signposts - when you NOTICE them stop and take NOTE

- NOTICE the signpost
- Answer the anchor question
- NOTE your deeper understanding of the text
Digging Deeper: The Signposts

- Contrasts & Contradictions
- Numbers & Stats
- Word Gaps
- Quoted Words
- Extreme / Absolute Language
Contrasts & Contradictions

What is the difference and why does it matter?

History: Why did the author point out this contrast/contradiction? Does this reveal a bias or just new knowledge?

Science: How does this differ from previously held beliefs or understandings?

Math: Under what conditions is this true?
Extreme or Absolute Language

Why did the author use this language?

**History:** What does this reveal about the author’s biases or purpose?

**Science:** Is this science or pseudo-science? Why would this author use this language?

**Math:** Is the language appropriate at all?
Numbers & Stats

Why did the author use these numbers or amounts?

**History:** How do these numbers help me see patterns across time, regions, and cultures?

**Science:** What purpose do these numbers serve in this context? Do these numbers help prove a point?

**Math (in a word problem):** What question is the author asking me and how do these numbers help?
Quoted Words

Why was this person quoted or cited, and what did this add?

*History*: What is this person’s perspective?

*Science*: What are the qualifications of this person?

*Math*: Why was the quote needed? What does it add to the thinking?
Word Gaps

Is this word technical talk for the topic? Do I know the word from someplace else? Can I find clues in the sentence to help me understand the word?

*History:* Is the term describing a time period? What does the term imply?

*Science:* Is this a word describing a concept? What do I know about the concept?

*Math:* Is it a word important to solving the problem?
Dig a little deeper: Fix-it Strategies

“Strategies are those scaffolds that make the invisible thinking processes visible”
- Beers & Probst, 2016

BEFORE
- KWL 2.0
- Possible Sentences*

DURING
- Sketch-to-Stretch
- Syntax Surgery

AFTER
- Somebody Wanted But So
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For further reading: