

2-Minute Preview

General Description:

Text structure, the way information is communicated, varies from content to content. As experts in your content, it is critical that you model and directly teach students how to approach new information. 2-Minute Preview is a simple but effective method for helping students focus on critical text features.

Directions:

1. Students fold a sheet of paper into fourths and label each box to focus on critical text features.

Title	Headings
Key Words	Pictures, Graphs

The text features you select may vary depending on the type of text and purpose for reading. Some examples include:

- Title—What questions does the title raise?
 - Introduction—What is the author talking about?
 - Headings and subheadings—What topics are found in this selection?
 - Graphs, charts, maps, tables—Do I know how to interpret this information?
 - Margin notes—What kind of information do they provide?
 - Summary—Do I understand the overview it gives of the chapter or selection?
2. Working in pairs, ask students to preview the material and record their responses on their preview sheets.
 3. Use their observations about the way information is organized to discuss and develop a strategic plan for approaching their content reading. Don't assume that students understand how or why they need to attend to these features. Model and discuss how to use them.

Management Tips:

- Initially, 2-Minute Preview takes much longer than two minutes. However, the time you spend securing the procedures and clarifying expectations will increase the effectiveness and efficiency once these skills are secure.
- The ultimate goal is for students to make this strategy a habit that they do with or without prompting from the teacher. As their proficiency with the strategy increases, begin to expect more and more of the previewing to be done independently. Eventually you should be able to say, "Take two minutes to preview," and students complete the preview independently.