

Steps in Lesson Planning for Paragraph-by-Paragraph Reading

The 6 steps in planning for Detailed Reading have been adjusted here for paragraph by paragraph reading of longer texts such as sections of a textbook chapter, newspaper article etc.

1. Select text.

According to genre (for modelling writing), field (key text in the topic or unit), mode (right level of difficulty for year level), ideology (message you want to discuss). Make a mastercopy of the text and number the paragraphs you will read with students.

2. Identify phases.

Phases are usually several sentences long. The types of phases depend on the genre, e.g. information report phases can include a classification (e.g. a snake is a reptile, computers are machines) and then description. Story phases can include settings, problems, reactions, descriptions, solutions, comments, reflections.

3. Highlight key wordings in each paragraph

Highlight key information in factual texts and literate language patterns in stories. With factual texts, highlighted wordings may later be pulled out to become 'notes' from which students can reconstruct new texts. Therefore, while only key topic or 'content' words should be highlighted, you can underline other wordings to discuss with students and draw their attention to (e.g. idioms, metaphors, grammar or language patterns such as '*some* people think...', Snakes *can* be poisonous').

4. Write notes for paragraph meanings and elaborations.

This is a commonsense summary of the gist of each paragraph – numbered on a separate sheet. Then note words to define, concepts to explain, points to discuss, connections to make etc.

5. Write notes for preparing before reading.

Write these on a separate sheet. These include any background knowledge required (general field), what the text's about (text field), what happens in the text (the sequence of meanings or how the text unfolds). Also make note of any other resources you need (e.g. maps, timelines, posters audiovisual material etc).