

Best Practice Questions

Activating Strategies

- How did you plan the current lesson?
- How did you get students involved in today's lesson?
- Was the key question visible?
- How did you use the key question in today's lesson?
- How did you have students answer the key question in your lesson?
- What activating strategy did you use in your current lesson?
- What strategy did you use to preview key vocabulary?
- Activating Strategies: KWL; Wordsplash; Anticipation Guide; Brainstorm web
- What strategy did you use to preview key vocabulary/concepts?
- Why these vocabulary words?
- If an organizer was used, why that one? Another organizer?

Cognitive Teaching Strategies

- How did students use a graphic organizer in today's lesson?
- Why that graphic organizer?
- How can graphic organizers be used in your classroom?
—structured note taking, Guided writing, Guided reading, Study and summarizing tool.
- How did you specifically teach the GO for student use?
- How did you incorporate distribute summarizing/practice?
- How did you make sure all students summarized?
- What evidence do you have of students' learning?
- What literacy strategies did you use to improve students' learning?
- What reading comprehension strategy did you utilize most recently?
- What other reading strategies can be utilized?
- What classroom management plan did you use?
- What vocabulary strategies did you use?
- How did students use vocabulary for learning?
- What evidence do you have that students are using past/present vocabulary in their writing, reading or discussion?
- How do you know when the lesson is moving too slow or too fast?
- What was the extending and refining component?
- How does this lesson fit into the unit?
- How did your lesson include distributed practice and summarizing?
- How did you differentiate instruction to meet students' needs?
- How do you flexibly group students?
- How do you differentiate student work and assignments?
- What writing component was connected to the learning?
- Why that type of writing?
- Do you use a rubric for writing?
- How often do children write and grade their own writing?
- How did you integrate writing in a recent lesson?
- How do you know that students use a systematic process for writing?

Summarizing Strategies

- Summarizing Strategies: KWL, Ticket out the door, 3-2-1, Key Word, Journaling, PMI
- How did you extend/refine thinking?
- How did you teach the strategy using a graphic organizer?
- Extending Refining Strategies: Cause/Effect, Compare/Contrast, Classify, Construct Support, Analyze Perspectives, Justification, Induction, Deduction, Error Analysis, Evaluation, Abstracting, Example to Idea, Idea to Example