



Literacy at Hartford Public High School

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Thoughts for the Day based on the Harry Wong tapes...

- Procedures must be rehearsed again and again until they become routines.
- You seemingly waste a little time at the beginning to gain time at the end.
- When students know how the class is run, they will more willingly do whatever you want them to do.
- Effective teachers do not say, "And the rule is ...; the rule is...."
- Effective teachers say, "And what's the procedure, please?"
- Students risk failure because of lack of structure.
- Procedures + Routines = Structure
- What are your procedures for...
 - End of period dismissal
 - Coming to attention
 - Going to the office
 - Finding directions for each assignment
 - Passing in papers
 - Sharpening a pencil
 - Heading of papers
 - When asking a question
 - Going to the nurse
 - Saying "Thank you"
 - Working in groups
- The greater the time students work together and the greater the responsibility students take for their work, the greater the learning.
- The highest form of teaching occurs when students are...
 - Working cooperatively
 - Solving open-ended problems
 - Using higher order thinking skills

Strategy to Use for Unknown Words in Context

1. **Select an authentic text passage** with example words to be defined through context (Context means the words and sentences nearby that give meaning to the example word.)
2. **Select text so that students have some prior knowledge** of the concept and with enough information to reason the meaning. (Using context clues sometimes requires inferring meaning from background knowledge about the concept.)
3. **Model the process of gaining information from the text** about the meaning of words in context using the [Context Clues Strategy](#).
4. **"Think aloud,"** making the thought process apparent.
5. **Construct the meaning of the word** from the clues that are given. *For example:*

*"Most students think that summer vacation regenerates their enthusiasm for school by providing relaxation time. Other students are so busy with jobs that there is little time to feel **regenerated** before school starts again in the fall."*

"What can I learn by the way 'regenerate' is used in the sentences? Let's see, summer vacation, if you relax, makes it happen. It's something that you feel if you're not too busy. It must be something positive like getting better. Summer vacation makes me feel better."
6. **Use key words surrounding the target word, as well as prior knowledge to decide the word meaning.** These will be the clues to help decide the target word meaning. Circle the clues in the passage that help with the word meanings.
7. **Check the word meaning with the dictionary definition.**