

Using the Found-Read Method

Purpose of Method

This method creates a quiet space in which students can begin to analyze a piece of literature by identifying its most important elements. It makes the students accountable for the reading and gives them some specific guidance about how to read it. It then leads into a discussion of the piece of literature and the topic of the day.

Materials You Will Need to Prepare Ahead of Time

- copies of one or more pieces of literature or other text pertaining to the lesson, one for each student (To diversify the responses you receive from the students, consider assigning two to three different pieces of literature instead of one.)

The Found-Read Method in Steps

1. Distribute a copy of the literature to each student. Instruct the students to read the literature carefully and thoroughly. Give them about 10 minutes to do so.
2. After they have read the piece of literature, instruct the students to circle, underline, or highlight a word, phrase, or sentence that stood out to them as important. Discourage them from choosing the entire passage, as this is too broad for a critical discussion.
3. Invite the students to share with the class their words, phrases, or sentences and a reason for their choice.
4. Write each word, phrase, or sentence on the board. Repetition is not only acceptable but expected!
5. Finally, lead the students in a discussion of the literature, paying special attention to the words, phrases, and sentences they chose.

