Explicit Instruction: Best Practices for Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities

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What is a strategy?

A strategy is an individual's approach to a task.
- It includes how an individual thinks and acts while learning.

Strategies help individuals do the following:
- Plan how to accomplish the task
- Perform the task
- Monitor performance during the task
- Evaluate how they did

Reading Comprehension
Visualization
1. Read part of the passage.
2. Pay attention to "sense" words (hear, feel, touch, smell, see, taste).
3. Pause when you come to a sense word.
4. Make a picture in your mind.
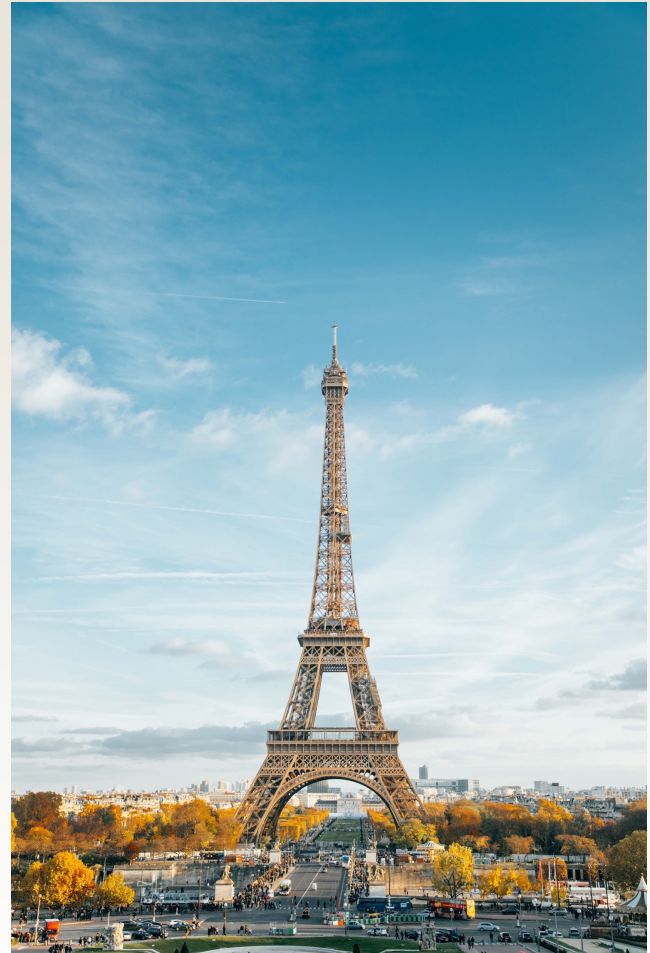5. Continue reading.
6. Add details.

Strategy Example 2

The Writing Process

(TOWER)

1. **T**hink- Think about the topic.

2. **O**rganize- Organize your thoughts.

3. **W**rite- Write a draft.

4. **E**ngage in revision- Revise your draft first for meaning.

5. **R**eview for errors- Edit and write a final draft.

Compare and Contrast

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Discussion

- What strategies do you use in daily life?

- What is your experience in offering strategy instruction?

- What are the advantages of this type of instruction for adults with LD?

What is explicit instruction?

Activity: Skill Learning

Purpose

To discuss how people learn skills

Tasks

- Think about a well-developed skill you have

    (e.g. driving, cooking, playing a sport or instrument, negotiating).

- How did you initially learn this skill?

- What helped you become competent?

- Identify commonalities with your group.

Explicit Instruction Overview

1. Provide clear explanations.

2. Model the learning process (I DO).

3. Engage in scaffolded practice

    (WE DO & YOU DO).

4. Provide elaborated feedback.

Provide Clear Explanations

1. Provide clear explanations.

a) Introduce the strategy and its steps.

b) Make sure the student has notes about the new strategy.

c) Discuss rationale. Students explain back.

d) Use learner-friendly language.

e) Connect with previous learning.

2. Model the learning process (I DO).

a) Model the skill by doing-correctly, clearly, concisely.

b) Model using think-aloud.

Engage in Scaffolded Practice

3. Engage in scaffolded practice (WE DO).

a) Guide practice with feedback.

b) Check on understanding and use of skills.

c) Engage in short practice exercises with feedback.

d) Implement cooperative learning practices when possible and appropriate.

Engage in scaffolded practice (YOU DO).

a) Provide opportunities for independent practice.

4. Provide elaborated feedback that is immediate, positive and constructive throughout.

Change in Teacher and Student Roles

Let's watch a video that demonstrates this principle. I DO, We DO, YOU DO –

How can we use explicit instruction to teach strategies and why is it useful?

Explicit Instruction for Strategy Learning

- Use explicit instruction principles.

- The focus is clearly on teaching HOW to use a specific strategy in context to learn and complete important tasks.

- Mastery of strategies supports independent learning and performance.

- Explicit instruction for strategy learning requires planning, especially in multi-level classrooms.
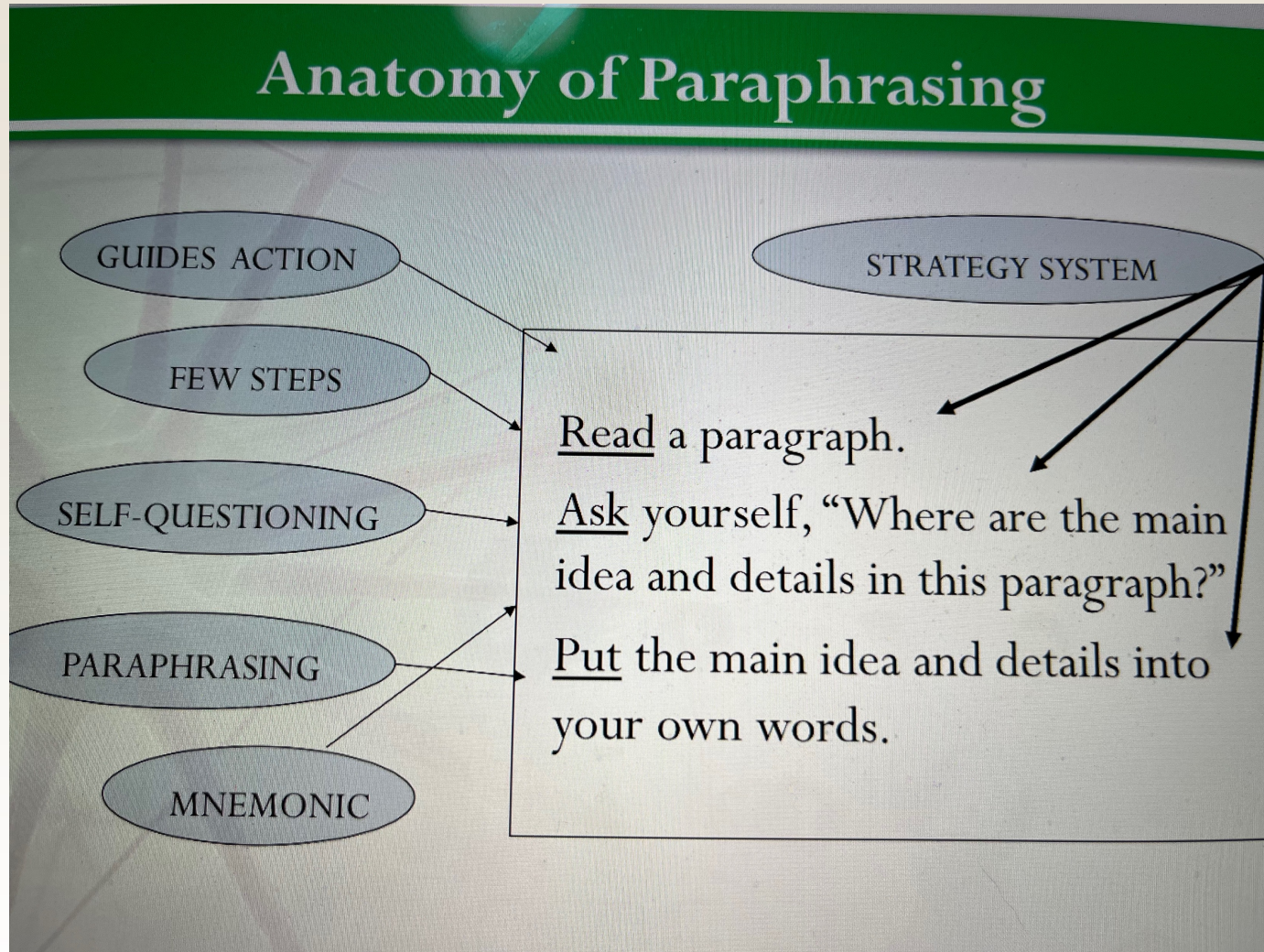
I DO and WE Do

The Paraphrasing Strategy- RAP

- **R**ead a paragraph.

- **A**sk yourself, "Where are the main ideas and the most important details of the paragraph?"

- **P**ut the main idea and details into your own words.

Anatomy of Paraphrasing

I DO-Transforming America's Mental Healthcare System

The United States is at a time of promise for historic transformation in mental health care. America's mental health has been struggling in recent years and millions of Americans, including many healthcare professionals on the front line of battling the illness, continue to grapple with the mental health challenges arising from the pandemic. However, our current mental health system is not set up to serve those who need the most help. Recent research released by the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine, *The Economic Burden of the Mental Health Inequities in the United States Report*, demonstrated tangible evidence for the first time that investing in mental healthcare directly contributes to saving lives and dollars.

Main Idea and Details

The main idea is that this is a promising time for mental healthcare in America.

An important detail is that many Americans are struggling with mental health challenges that started during the pandemic.

Another important detail is that there is not enough help available for those who need it the most.

A third important detail is that a new study shows evidence that investing in mental healthcare saves money and lives.

WE DO-Transforming America's Mental Healthcare System

The call to remedy these issues is clear and urgent. The real question is how bold the healthcare industry can be in driving and sustaining systemic change that addresses the challenges. One healthcare company views this as a positive opportunity to bring forward transformation on behalf of those living with mental illness. It asks, "**What if the world valued every mind?**" The company claims that decisive and transformative change to the U.S. mental health landscape is possible if politicians, public administrators, advocates, and policy experts coalesce around a focused set of objectives.

Main Idea and Details

The main idea is that it is time to solve the mental health care crisis in the U.S.

An important detail is that the healthcare industry has a significant role in solving this problem.

Another important detail is that one idea is for politicians, public administrators, advocates, and policy experts to come together to develop strategies to solve the problem.

Discussion

How did the modeling and guided practice of the RAP steps show the learner how to plan and perform the task of paraphrasing?

How could the RAP steps help instructors provide feedback and help learners to internalize strategy steps?

What is important in preparing and modeling a strategy?

Activity- Think-Aloud Using RAP

Purpose

To practice modeling with think-aloud using the paraphrasing strategy (RAP).

Please follow the instructions on the handout.

Discussion

What did you think about modeling with think-aloud from this exercise?

What are your thoughts about the role explicit strategy instruction can play in adult learning?

Unique Features and Advantages

What are the unique features of explicit instruction?

- Instructor uses explicit instruction to clearly explain and model.

- Practice starts easy and gradually gets more difficult (scaffolding).

- Practice is followed by positive and constructive feedback.

- Practice incorporates authentic assignments or tasks.

Unique Features and Advantages

What are its advantages for adults with LD?

- Explicit instruction is based on research.

- Explicit instruction responds to the needs of adults with LD to learn skills and strategies to help them be more confident and independent learners.

- Explicit instruction encourages lots of opportunities for explanation, modeling, practice with support, and independent practice. It gives students the tools, time and support they need to succeed.

Thank You & Questions