

Larbi Ben M'hidi University- Oum El Bouaghi
Department of English
Course Title: READING
Level: First Year-LMD
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PREVIEWING AND PREDICTING

Objective : Students will learn to activate their prior knowledge and combine it with information they gain from previewing the text to form predictions about the text. These predictions will give the students a purpose and motivation to read and hence improve comprehension.

Introduction

The reading demands of university study are not easy. Unfortunately, however, it is all too common for students to pay little attention to their own approaches to reading, that is, how they read, and how they can improve the effectiveness and speed of their reading.

Many of your readings will be from handouts, but you may also have reading assignments that consist of articles, web site information, stories, and other non-literature selections. This course provides some strategies for approaching reading assignments from a book or similar source, namely **previewing** and **predicting**.

I. Previewing

1. What is previewing ?

Previewing is a rapid kind of reading that allows readers to get a general sense of what a passage, article, or book is about and how it is organised.

Previewing helps readers prepare for what they are about to read and set a purpose for reading.

2.Previewing an Article or an Essay

In previewing an article or essay, you look at most of the first paragraph, the first sentence of each paragraph, and the concluding sentences. You should ask yourself questions like the ones below.

- What is it about? What is the title? What do I already know about this?
- What kind of text is this? Is it a description? An explanation? An argument? A narrative (history)?
- Is the text divided into parts? How is it organized?
- Are there any maps, numbers, italicized words, or names in the text?

3.Previewing a Book

Previewing is especially important in books. You should always read the table of contents and the outline of a chapter to find out what they contain. You should also preview the text in a chapter or a section of a chapter before reading it.

3.1.Guidelines for Previewing a Book Passage

- Read the main heading.
- Check to see if the passage is divided into parts.
- Read the first few sentences.
- Read the first sentence of each paragraph after that.

- Read the final sentences of the passage.

II. Predicting

1.What is predicting?

Predicting involves thinking ahead while reading and anticipating information and events in the text. After making predictions, students can read through the text and refine, revise, and verify their predictions. It is one excellent way for readers to interact with text is to make an informed guess about what they will read.

2.Why is it important ?

Making predictions activates students' prior knowledge about the text and helps them make connections between new information and what they already know. By making predictions about the text before, during, and after reading, students use what they already know—as well as what they suppose might happen—to make connections to the text.

3.What do readers do to make predictions ?

When students make predictions, they use their prior knowledge and the information they gather from previewing (including titles, headings, pictures, and diagrams) to create an expectation for what they will read. This expectation then provides a purpose for their reading and generates interest in the selection. As students read, they adjust or change their predictions on the basis of new information they encounter in the text, or they confirm that their prediction was accurate. In both instances, using the text to inform their predictions is essential.

References :

Mikulecky, B.S. & Jeffries, L (1986). *Reading power : Reading faster, thinking skills, reading for pleasure, comprehension skills*. USA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company.

Mikulecky, B.S. & Jeffries, L (2007). *Advanced reading power : Extensive reading, vocabulary building, comprehension skills, reading faster*. New York : Pearson Longman.