The Paraphrasing Strategy

Paraphrasing Strategy Overview

Pertinent setting demands
Reading, understanding, and remembering written information.

Purpose of this strategy
To make the student active in the reading process by requiring the student to search out and state the main ideas and details of each paragraph.

Steps of the strategy
Step 1: Read a paragraph
Step 2: Ask what are the main ideas and details
Step 3: Put the main idea and at least two details into your own words
Anatomy of the Paraphrasing Strategy

- **R** Read a paragraph
- **A** Ask yourself, “What were the main ideas and details in this paragraph?”
- **P** Put the main idea and details into your own words

Critical Features of the Paraphrasing Strategy Intervention

**Behavioral Elements**

- Provides specificity for needed reading behaviors
- Performance outcomes observable
- Specific setting demands addressed

**Design of the Strategy**

- Direct explanation in use of strategy
- Prompted (guided) practice gradually changes to unprompted (independent) practice
- Initial teacher-directed feedback on specific behaviors relates to correctly performing the strategy
- Specific mastery criteria used; students made aware of criteria
- Students plot own progress
Rationales Behind the Paraphrasing Steps

1. The strategy requires the student to actively interact with and think about the material rather than passively reading it.
2. Following a step-by-step process requires a high level of attention during a reading activity.
3. “Chunking” material into small units facilitates better memory and subsequent recall of the material.

Learning Strategies Curriculum

Acquisition
- Word Identification
- Paraphrasing
- Self-Questioning
- Visual Imagery
- Interpreting Visual Aids
- Multpass

Paraphrasing Strategy Results

Percentage of Comprehension Questions Answered Correctly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading Level Materials</th>
<th>Before Instruction</th>
<th>After Instruction</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade Level Materials</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>84%</td>
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This early strategy study was done by KU-CRL staff members with secondary LD students in 1988.
Instructor’s Manual Contents

- Instructional Stages
  - Pretest & Obtain Commitment to Learn
  - Describe
  - Model
  - Verbal Rehearsal
  - Controlled Practice and Feedback
  - Advanced Practice and Feedback
  - Protest & Obtain Commitment to Generalize

- Instructional Stages (cont.)
  - Generalization
    - Phase 1: Orientation
    - Phase 2: Activation
    - Phase 3: Maintenance

Instructional Step Organization

- What your goal is
- What you need
- How to prepare
- How much time to allow
- What to do
- What to require for mastery
- Where to go from here
- How to trouble-shoot
Student Folder Contents

Front cover: Progress Chart
Assignment Sheets

Back cover: Envelope

Eventual contents: Cue Cards
Controlled Practice Attempts
Advanced Practice Attempts
Generalization Attempts
Activation
Maintenance

Paraphrasing Strategy Management Chart

Paraphrasing Progress Chart
Steps for Paraphrasing

Step 1  Read a paragraph.

Step 2  Ask yourself, “What were the main ideas and details in this paragraph?”

Step 3  Put the main ideas and details into your own words.

Finding the Main Idea

Questions to Ask

What is this paragraph about?
This paragraph is about ____________________.

What does it tell me about ________________?
It tells me ____________________________
__________________________________.

Finding the Main Idea

Places to Look

1. Look in the first sentence of the paragraph.

2. Look for repetitions of the same word or words in the whole paragraph.
Requirements for a Paraphrase

1. Must contain a complete thought
   - subject
   - verb
2. Must be totally accurate
3. Must have new information
4. Must make sense
5. Must contain useful information
6. Must be in your own words
7. Only one general statement per paragraph is allowed

Paraphrasing Verbal Rehearsal Checklist

Student’s Name: __________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steps</th>
<th>Attempts</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read a paragraph</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask what you need</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Put the main idea and details into your own words</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage correct</td>
<td>% % % % % % % %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paraphrase Score Sheet

Calculating the Score:
- Main Ideas/Points: [Box]
- Key Support/Details: [Box]
- Total Score: [Box]