

READING Strategy → Selective Underlining

Reading component

Comprehension

Overview of the strategy

Selective underlining is a study strategy that enables students to understand what the author is trying to say and to organize information in texts.

Strategy procedure

1. Explain to students that, when used selectively, underlining sections of text and taking notes in the margins are helpful comprehension strategies. Explain that underlining is one way to organize information in texts.
2. Using a transparency of an assignment, model how you underline. First, read through the selection, then reread and begin underlining, not whole sentences, but words and phrases that get at key ideas. Note main ideas with numbers or other notations. For key ideas, come up with short topic names, and write them in the margins.
3. Underline main ideas and details with different colored markers. For example, main ideas may be in blue while details are in red.
4. When main points are not explicit, generate your own main points, jot them in the margins, and color appropriately.

Source

- C. M. Santa, L. T. Havens, and E. M. Maycumber, *Project CRISS* (Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt, 1996).