What's for snack? Close Reading

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Nonfiction Close Reading

Many students get lost and confused when reading nonfiction text making its meaning unclear. If students are aware of the structure of the nonfiction text (sequence, description, compare/contrast, cause/effect, and problem/solution), it becomes easier to comprehend. These five signposts help students read closely to gain deeper understanding. 2-4 readings of the text (1 for each signpost) can be expected.



When the author shows you a difference between what you know and what is happening in the text...

Ask yourself
and What does this make
take note wonder about?
What is the contrast or
contradiction and why

Extreme or Absolute Language

When the author uses language that leaves no doubt, exaggerates, or pushes the limit...

Ask yourself
and What does this make take note of.... why does the author use this language?

Numbers & Statistics

When you notice specific numbers, number words, or amounts...

Ask yourself
and What picture does this number mean to me?
Why did the author use these numbers?



If the author quotes a voice of authority, personal perspective, or cited other's words...

Ask yourself
and Who was this
person? Why are
take notether words important
of... & what did it add to
the text?



When you read a word or phrase that you don't know...

Ask yourself
and Do I know parts of the word? Can I find take note of... sentences before and after it?