



CNA-Q's Advanced

Writing Center



Activity for the "Learning Circle" Strategy

1. Select members for the learning circle (discussion group).
2. Assign roles for the members of the circle.
3. Assign reading to be completed by the circle inside or outside of session/class.
4. Select circle meeting date(s).
5. Help students prepare for their roles in their circle.
6. Act as a facilitator for the circles.**

**The role of facilitator could be played by the instructor, or by a member of the learning circle.

Adapted from:

Gulino, A. & Murphy, M. (n.d.). An introduction to literature circles. Retrieved September 23, 2008, from <http://www.naz.edu:9000/~include/pdfs/poster/Literature%20Circles%20Resource%20Packet.pdf>



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Learning Circle

Your Name: _____

Title of reading: _____

Your Role: *Connector*

Your job is to find connections between the reading and the world outside. This means connecting the reading to your own life, happenings at school or in the community, similar events at other times and places, or other people, problems, or ideas that this reading brings to mind. You might also see connections between this reading and other writings on the same topic or other writings by the same author. There are no right answers here. Whatever the reading connects you with is worth sharing!

Some connections I found between this reading and other people, places, events, authors:

Topic to be carried over to tomorrow: _____

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Learning Circle

Your Name: _____

Title of reading: _____

Your Role: *Discussion Director*

Your job is to develop a list of questions that your group might want to discuss about the reading. Don't worry about the small details; your task is to help people talk over the big ideas in the reading and share their reactions. Usually the best discussion questions come from your own thoughts, feelings, and concerns as you read. You can list them below during or after your reading. You may also use some of the general questions below to develop topics for your group.

Possible discussion questions or topics for today

Sample questions

- What was going through your mind while you read this?
- How did you feel while reading this?
- Did today's reading remind you of any real-life experiences?
- What questions did you have when you finished this reading?
- Did anything in this reading surprise you?

Topic to be carried over to tomorrow: _____

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Learning Circle

Your Name: _____

Title of reading: _____

Your Role: *Illustrator*

Your job is to draw some kind of picture related to the reading. It can be a sketch, cartoon, diagram, flow chart, or stick figure scene. You can draw a picture of something that is discussed specifically in the reading, something that the reading reminded you of, or a picture that conveys any idea or feeling you got from the reading. Any kind of drawing or graphic is okay. You can even label things with words if that helps. Make your drawing on this paper.

Connections: What did today's reading remind you of?

Topic to be carried over to tomorrow: _____

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Learning Circle

Your Name: _____

Title of reading: _____

Your Role: *Questioner*

Your job is to develop a list of four questions about this reading that your circle might discuss. Your task is to help circle members discuss the big ideas in the reading and share their reactions. Center your questions on the 5 Ws + How. Be prepared to read aloud key passages that present the answers.

Questions:

Topic to be carried over to tomorrow: _____

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Learning Circle

Your Name: _____

Title of reading: _____

Your Role: *Summarizer*

Your job is to prepare a brief summary of today's reading. Your group discussion will start with your brief statement that covers the key points, main highlights, and general idea of today's reading assignment.

Summary:

Key Points:

Connections: What did today's reading remind you of?

Topic to be carried over to tomorrow: _____

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Learning Circle

Your Name: _____

Title of reading: _____

Your Role: *Vocabulary Enricher*

Your job is to be on the lookout for a few especially important words in today's reading. If you find words that are puzzling or unfamiliar, mark them while you are reading and then later jot down their definition, either from a dictionary or from some other source. You may also run across familiar words that stand out somehow in the reading - words that are repeated a lot, are used in an unusual way, or provide a key to the meaning of the text. Mark these special words, and be ready to point them out to the group. When your circle meets, help members find and discuss these words.

Word	Location in Text	Definition	Comment

Topic to be carried over to tomorrow: _____

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