

Ideas for SI Activities

Oral Reading of Lecture Notes

Note review is a good strategy to use early in the academic term. Why?

- Students see the importance of taking comprehensive notes.
- Students can fill in the gaps in their notes, as well as clear up discrepancies and misinformation.
- Each student in the session has a chance to participate.
- SI leaders highlight and discuss the language of the discipline, the new vocabulary. Students identify meaningful examples and check for understanding.

Procedure

1. Tell the group that you will begin reading from your lecture notes and will ask the student on your right or left to pick up where you stop. Let them know that the role of reader will move to each student in the circle.
2. Look at the students and encourage them to let everyone know if something is left out or inconsistent with what they have recorded. To note inconsistency does not mean that someone is necessarily right or wrong; moreover, members of the SI group will discover how to remedy the problem through the following resources:
 - Ask the student who disagrees to read from his or her notes.
 - Ask the group if their notes compare.
 - Check in the textbook for support; add the page reference to the notes.
 - If a consensus is not reached, work with the students to formulate specific questions to ask the professor in the next class.
3. The pressure of reading may unnerve a student who believes that his or her notes are too rough to read. Since reading aloud is a form of performance, some students may be reluctant. Gently encourage the student, but if he or she is not comfortable, don't push. Perhaps note taking skills and confidence will improve as the term progresses and the usefulness of good notes becomes apparent.
4. As you approach the end of the SI session and material has not been discussed, suggest to members of the group that they should finish reading through their notes. If they have questions or blanks in their notes, tell them to work with another student to find the answers or to bring these questions to the next SI session.