Teaching ELLs to Read Critically Through Collaborative Discussion

The goal of this lesson plan is to train students to read critically and collaboratively through discussion. This module is designed for initial and advanced readers in second language instruction.

Benefits of Discussions

- Increases critical thinking skills
- Develops collaborative learning skills
- Fosters greater engagement in current issues
- Allows diverse perspectives to be explored

Research Suggests

- Students who have higher levels of critical thinking skills are found to have better academic achievement and test scores.
- Critical thinking helps students make connections and apply knowledge to new situations.

The Process

1. View the Stimulus
   - Read the story or view the video.
   - Discuss the story elements with students.

2. Generate Questions
   - Ask students to think about what they have read.
   - Have students choose one or two questions to ask the class.

3. Sit in a Circle
   - Organize the class into small groups.
   - Have each group share their questions with the class.

4. Discuss
   - Encourage students to share their ideas and questions.
   - Have students work together to develop a shared understanding.

Teacher’s Role

- Focus on the thinking process, providing guidance.
- Encourage students to share their ideas and questions.

Take Aways

- Discussions are powerful instructional tools.
- Critical thinking helps students make connections and apply knowledge to new situations.
- Critical thinking is a key component of effective learning.

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