



Reading Comprehension: Retain Text Information With Paraphrasing (RAP)

Students who fail to retain important details from their reading can be taught a self-directed paraphrasing strategy.

The student is trained to use a 3-step cognitive strategy when reading each paragraph of an information- text passage:

1. READ the paragraph;
2. ASK oneself what the main idea of the paragraph is and what two key details support that main idea;
3. PARAPHRASE the main idea and two supporting details into one's own words.

This 3-step strategy is easily memorized using the acronym RAP (read-ask-paraphrase).

OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED: Create an organizer sheet with spaces for the student to record the main idea and supporting details of multiple paragraphs to be used with the RAP strategy. RAP organizer forms can provide structure to the student and yield work products that the teacher can collect to verify that the student is using the strategy.

Reference

Hagaman, J. L., Casey, K. J., & Reid, R. (2010). The effects of the paraphrasing strategy on the reading comprehension of young students. *Remedial and Special Education, 33*, 110-123.



Read-Ask-Paraphrase (RAP) Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____ Title of Reading: _____

Student Directions: For each paragraph from your assigned reading, (1) READ the paragraph; (2) ASK yourself what the main idea of the paragraph is and what two key details support that main idea; (3) PARAPHRASE the main idea and two supporting details in your own words and write them in the blank provided.

Paragraph 1: _____

Paragraph 2: _____

Paragraph 3: _____

Paragraph 4: _____



Paragraph 5: _____

Paragraph 6: _____

Paragraph 7: _____

Paragraph 8: _____

Paragraph 9: _____
