

EXPOSITORY TEXTS ANTICIPATING CONTENT THROUGH QUESTIONS

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Abstract:

Engaging with expository texts is a fundamental aspect of acquiring knowledge and developing critical thinking skills. However, passive reading can hinder comprehension and limit the reader's ability to extract key information. To overcome this challenge, one effective strategy is to anticipate content through the use of questions. By asking questions before and during the reading process, readers can activate their prior knowledge, focus their attention, and extract relevant information more effectively. This article explores the benefits of using questions to anticipate content in expository texts and provides strategies to enhance reader engagement and comprehension. Through this approach, readers can actively interact with the material, deepen their understanding, and develop critical thinking skills that are essential for successful navigation of expository texts.

Keywords: expository texts, acquiring knowledge, critical thinking, reading comprehension, key information, anticipate, interact, deepen understanding, successful navigation.

Introduction

Expository texts are a type of writing that aims to inform, explain, or describe a particular topic or subject. The purpose of expository texts is to provide factual information, present ideas, or clarify concepts in a clear and organized manner. Unlike narrative texts that tell a story or persuasive texts that aim to convince the reader, expository texts focus on presenting objective information in an unbiased and logical manner.

The key characteristics of expository texts include:

Objectivity: Expository texts present information without personal opinions or bias, relying on verifiable facts and evidence.

Clarity: These texts aim to communicate information in a clear and understandable way, using a straightforward and logical structure.

Organization: Expository texts often follow a specific structure, such as the use of headings, subheadings, and paragraphs, to guide readers through the content.

Informational focus: The primary purpose of expository texts is to provide information, explain a concept, or describe a process.



Use of examples: Expository texts may incorporate relevant examples, illustrations, or case studies to enhance understanding and demonstrate concepts.

Common examples of expository texts include textbooks, research articles, news reports, scientific papers, explanatory essays, and instructional manuals. They are commonly found in educational settings, professional contexts, and informational publications.

The purpose of expository texts is to educate, inform, and help readers gain knowledge and understanding about a specific subject. By presenting information in a clear and organized manner, expository texts enable readers to grasp concepts, explore different viewpoints, and make informed decisions. Whether it's explaining a scientific theory, providing historical facts, or offering step-by-step instructions, expository texts play a crucial role in disseminating information and promoting learning.

Engaging readers and generating curiosity is of paramount importance and vital for retaining attention, promoting active participation, establishing emotional connections, motivating further exploration, empowering critical thinking, creating a memorable experience, and achieving effective communication. By incorporating strategies to engage and intrigue readers, you can enhance the impact of your writing and effectively convey your message.

Understanding expository texts

Understanding expository texts is crucial for effective reading and comprehension. Expository texts are informational writings that aim to explain, describe, or inform the reader about a particular subject or topic. Here are some key points to consider when approaching expository texts:

Purpose and characteristics: Expository texts are written with the purpose of providing factual information, presenting ideas, or clarifying concepts. They are typically objective, relying on verifiable facts and evidence rather than personal opinions or bias. Expository texts often follow a logical and organized structure, using headings, subheadings, and paragraphs to guide readers through the content.

Text structure: Expository texts commonly employ specific text structures to convey information effectively. Some common structures include: a) cause and effect: Presents the relationship between events or actions and their consequences. b) Compare and contrast: Highlights similarities and differences between two or more subjects or ideas. c) Problem and solution: Addresses a problem or issue and proposes possible solutions. d) Sequential or chronological: Presents information in a step-by-step or time-based order. e) Descriptive: Provides detailed descriptions or characteristics of a particular subject.

Understanding the text structure can help readers navigate through the content and comprehend the information more easily.

Text features: Expository texts often include various text features that aid comprehension. These features may include headings, subheadings, bullet points, diagrams, charts, tables, or illustrations. Paying attention to these features can provide additional context, highlight important information, and support understanding.

Vocabulary and terminology: Expository texts may contain specialized vocabulary or terminology related to the subject matter. It is essential to familiarize yourself with key terms and their



definitions to grasp the content accurately. If you encounter unfamiliar terms, referring to a glossary or conducting additional research can help clarify their meanings.

By employing these strategies and approaches, readers can develop a deeper understanding of expository texts, extract relevant information, and effectively comprehend the subject matter being presented.

Anticipating content through questions

Anticipating content through questions is a valuable reading and comprehension technique that helps readers actively engage with the material and enhance their understanding. By formulating questions before and during the reading process, readers can anticipate the content, focus their attention, and extract key information. Here's how anticipating content through questions can be beneficial:

Pre-reading preparation: Before diving into the text, ask yourself questions about the topic based on your prior knowledge or assumptions. This helps activate your background knowledge and sets a purpose for reading. For example, if you're going to read an article about climate change, you might ask, "What are the main causes of climate change? How does it impact the environment and human activities?"

Guided reading: As you read, formulate questions that guide your understanding and help you extract relevant information. These questions can be related to the main ideas, supporting details, or specific aspects of the topic. For example, while reading a history textbook chapter on World War II, you might ask, "What were the major events leading to the outbreak of the war? How did it impact different countries and societies?"

Critical thinking: Formulating questions encourages critical thinking and analysis of the text. It prompts you to consider different perspectives, evaluate the evidence presented, and draw connections between ideas. By questioning the content, you develop a deeper understanding and may even identify gaps or inconsistencies in the information provided.

By incorporating the practice of anticipating content through questions, readers can approach texts with a more active and focused mindset. This technique promotes deeper comprehension, critical thinking, and improved retention of information.

Types of questions in expository texts

In expository texts, various types of questions can be asked to facilitate comprehension, critical thinking, and engagement with the content. Here are some common types of questions found in expository texts:

Fact-based questions: These questions seek specific information or details from the text. They can be answered directly by locating the relevant information within the passage. For example: "What year did the Industrial Revolution begin?" or "Who was the author of the book?"

Understanding/comprehension questions: These questions assess the reader's understanding of the main ideas, supporting details, or concepts presented in the text. They require synthesizing information and making connections. For example: "What are the key factors contributing to climate change?" or "Explain the process of photosynthesis."

Comparison and contrast questions: These questions involve examining similarities and differences between two or more subjects or ideas. They require identifying shared characteristics



or contrasting features. For example: "Compare and contrast the main theories of psychology" or "What are the similarities and differences between a plant cell and an animal cell?"

By encountering and answering these different types of questions, readers can deepen their understanding, engage with the content, and develop critical thinking skills while interacting with expository texts.

Strategies for using questions in expository texts

Using questions strategically can enhance reading comprehension and critical thinking when engaging with expository texts. Here are some effective strategies for incorporating questions into your reading process:

Pre-reading questions: Before diving into the text, preview the headings, subheadings, and other text features. Formulate questions based on these cues to activate your prior knowledge and set a purpose for reading. These questions can help you identify what you already know about the topic and what you hope to learn. For example, if the heading is "Causes of Climate Change," you might ask, "What are the main factors contributing to climate change?"

Skim and scan questions: Skimming and scanning techniques involve quickly scanning the text for keywords or specific information. As you skim or scan, ask yourself targeted questions to guide your search. For instance, if you're looking for statistics on global warming, you might ask, "What are the current global temperature trends?" or "Are there any data points on carbon emissions?"

Elaboration questions: As you encounter new information, ask yourself questions that encourage deeper thinking and elaboration. These questions prompt you to connect the new information to your existing knowledge or to consider the implications and significance of what you're reading. For instance, if you come across a scientific concept, you might ask, "How does this relate to other scientific principles I've learned?" or "What are the real-world applications of this concept?"

Reflective questions: After reading a section or completing the text, take a moment to reflect on what you've learned. Ask yourself questions that encourage self-assessment and integration of the information. Reflective questions can help solidify your understanding and identify areas where further clarification or exploration may be necessary. For example, you might ask, "What were the most important takeaways from this text?" or "Do I have any lingering questions or uncertainties?"

The goal of using questions in expository texts is to actively engage with the material, promote deeper comprehension, and foster critical thinking. By strategically incorporating questions throughout the reading process, you can enhance your learning experience and extract the most valuable information from the text.

Enhancing reader engagement

Enhancing reader engagement and comprehension is crucial for effective reading and understanding of expository texts. Here are some strategies to help improve reader engagement and comprehension:

Activate prior knowledge: Before reading, activate your prior knowledge on the topic. Reflect on what you already know, make connections to your own experiences, or recall any related



information. This helps create a foundation for understanding and makes it easier to assimilate new information.

Set a purpose for reading: Establish a clear purpose for reading. Ask yourself why you are reading the text and what you hope to gain from it. Having a purpose in mind helps maintain focus and motivation throughout the reading process.

Preview the text: Take a few moments to preview the text before diving in. Scan the headings, subheadings, and text features such as illustrations, diagrams, or charts. This gives you an overview of the content and helps you anticipate what to expect.

Chunk the text: Break the text into manageable chunks or sections. After each section, pause and summarize what you've read in your own words. This helps consolidate information and ensures that you are actively processing the content.

Ask questions: Formulate questions as you read. Ask yourself questions about the main ideas, supporting details, or any points that are unclear. This encourages active engagement, critical thinking, and helps guide your reading.

Highlight or take notes: Use highlighting or note-taking techniques to mark important information, key ideas, or points of interest. This helps you focus on essential details and serves as a reference for later review.

Summarize: Summarize the main ideas or key points of each section or paragraph in your own words. This helps reinforce understanding and ensures that you grasp the core concepts.

Reflect and review: After reading, take time to reflect on what you have learned. Ask yourself questions about the main ideas, the significance of the information, and how it relates to the broader context. Reviewing the material shortly after reading helps reinforce learning and solidify understanding.

Engage in discussion: Engage in discussions with others who have read the same text or share your insights with a study group or instructor. Explaining concepts to others and hearing different perspectives can deepen your understanding and promote critical thinking.

By implementing these strategies, readers can enhance their engagement, comprehension, and overall learning experience when engaging with expository texts.

Conclusion

In conclusion, anticipating content through questions is a valuable strategy when engaging with expository texts. By formulating questions before and during the reading process, readers can activate their prior knowledge, focus their attention, and extract key information. This approach enhances reader engagement, comprehension, and critical thinking.

By asking pre-reading questions, readers activate their background knowledge and set a purpose for reading. This helps create a foundation for understanding and guides their exploration of the text. Skimming and scanning questions assist in quickly locating specific information, while main idea questions ensure readers grasp the central themes and key points of the text.

Formulating understanding/comprehension questions prompts readers to synthesize information and make connections, fostering a deeper understanding of the material. Inference questions encourage critical thinking by requiring readers to draw logical conclusions based on textual evidence. Evaluation questions promote analysis and assessment of arguments or evidence presented in the text.



Cause and effect questions help readers understand the relationships between events or actions, while comparison and contrast questions encourage the identification of similarities and differences. Application questions prompt readers to transfer their knowledge to real-life situations, facilitating the practical application of the information.

By strategically incorporating questions into their reading process, readers actively engage with the text, maintain focus, and extract the most relevant information. This approach fosters deeper comprehension, critical thinking, and retention of knowledge. Additionally, engaging in discussions with others further enhances understanding and provides different perspectives.

In summary, by anticipating content through questions, readers can enhance their reading experience with expository texts, promote active engagement, and develop a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

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