



3.6 Reading Fluency Drills

This activity develops fluency in public speaking. These drills will help students practice reading aloud with fluency, confidence, and proper expression. Reading fluency drills are a good opening warm-up for your class and should be repeated frequently.

Time Allotment

Approximately 5 minutes

Objectives

By the end of this activity, students will:

- practice techniques for improving reading expression and fluency.
- hone public speaking skills.

Materials and Preparation

Each student will need some evidence to read. The content of the evidence is irrelevant.

Method

Divide the class into pairs and have students take turns performing the drill as their partner listens and offers criticism.

Cold Reading Drill:

Each student should pick up a piece of evidence with which she is not familiar. The student should read this evidence loudly, fluently and with confidence. Each student's partner should offer feedback and constructive criticism on:

- Strategies for dealing with unfamiliar words and phrases
- Eye contact and gestures
- Emphasis on key words and phrases
- Confidence and assertiveness

Emphasis Drill:

Each student should take a piece of evidence and read it silently. Then, each student should circle or underline important phrases to emphasize when reading the evidence aloud. Each student should read the evidence aloud to their partner, using expression and vocal inflection where appropriate to convey the meaning of the evidence. The partner should offer criticism on:

- Whether the degree of emphasis seemed natural and appropriate.
- Whether the speaker properly selected the words and phrases to emphasize.