Using Newspapers Activity One  News/Mag/Vocab.

Purpose: to expose students to a variety of sources of information, to allow students to have the opportunity to self-select reading material, to give students practice summarizing information.

Note: We use this as an activity for the first fifteen-twenty minutes of class. It gets students to class on time, they are working on something right away and you are able to answer student questions in a more relaxed atmosphere. It is also a great activity when you have fifteen minutes left at the end of class and there is not enough time to start something new.

If you have less time, the students can just do the front of a card with no reaction

Materials: We have teachers bring a variety of magazines, their morning papers and copies of the college paper. Some semesters we have had the students subscribe to New for You. (High-interest adult newspaper of current events. Reading level 4-6th grade. ) www.newreaderspress.com

Note: Always provide a sample for students so your directions are clear. The directions and the sample on next page are in a large font so it can be viewed easily on a smartboard. (pg. 2)

Directions:

1. Find an article in newspaper that interests you.
2. Pick up an index card.
3. Read the article, underlining key ideas.
4. Circle one vocabulary word you are unfamiliar with.
5. On the front of the card include the following information:
   a. your name and the date
   b. title of the article
   c. one paragraph summary- tell the main points of the article.
   d. vocabulary word –Write one word you did not know, look up its definition and part of speech

On the Back of the card include:
   a. Your Reaction- what do you think about the topic. Write at least one paragraph.

Adapted from Soozie Hazan, Pima Community College, 2009.
Sample Card

Marty Frailey  
October 16, 2006

Title: Fixing Americas Hospitals

Summary:
This article talked about all the accidents in hospitals today and how many people become sicker or lose their lives as a result. Many of the mistakes are due to carelessness. Mistakes include things like: giving people the wrong medicine or the wrong dosage of the medicine. People also are injured when doctors misdiagnose something or when the patient is not taken care of in a timely manner when an emergency arises. Close to 100,000 people die every year from medical errors and 1.5 million are harmed by medication errors. Doctors often hide the truth from patients and family members and a feeling of distrust pervades the environment of the hospital.

Vocabulary word:  
inadvertently (adverb) 1. in a careless manner 2. done without intending to or without realizing 3. unintentionally

My Reaction
I thought this article was rather scary. I had no idea that so many mistakes were made in hospitals. I was not surprised that doctors and medical staff hide many of them. I think they are afraid someone will sue the hospital. It seems from the article that hospitals are trying to save money by having nurses take care of more people. Also, the doctors themselves are working too hard and too fast. I was glad to see that hospitals were being checked out more carefully and were being forced to put safety measures in place to reduce accidents.