Non-fiction Discussion Sheet to Use with Magazine and Journal Articles

Purpose:
• to provide an informal way for students report on non-fiction articles they have read
• to help students prepare for a small group discussion of articles

Directions:

1. Assign students to read a specific article from a news magazine or journal. You can also give them a choice of one of three or four articles.

2. Provide students with *Non-Fiction Discussion Sheet*. Explain the procedure on the sheet (page 2).

3. Students will read the article and fill out their *Discussion Sheet*. Completing this sheet will help them prepare for a high quality discussion.

4. Students will meet in groups and share the thoughts and questions from their sheets.

5. At the end of class they turn in their *Discussion Sheet* for credit.

Note:
I have found that student find it more difficult to carry on discussions on nonfiction articles. Since I began using these sheets, I have improved the quality of the discussions. Everyone is held accountable to provide input to the group. These sheets are also very easy for instructors to skim over and give credit for participation.
Nonfiction Discussion Sheet

Name_______________________________________ Date___________________________

Title of Reading_______________________________ Author_________________________

Discussion Questions:
Jot down a few questions you would like to discuss with your group. They could be questions that came to mind while reading, questions you would like to ask the author, questions you’d like to investigate, or anything you think the group might want to discuss.

Passages:
Mark some lines in the text that caught your attention- sections that somehow jumped out at you as you read. These might be passages that seem especially important, puzzling, strange, well written, controversial, or striking in some other way. Be ready to read these aloud to the group.

Connections:
Think about any personal connections you have made with the text. Did the article remind you of any past experiences, people, or events in your life? Did it make you think of anything that happened recently in the news? Can you relate it to any other material you have recently read?

What’s New?
Write a few sentences telling some new things you learned from the article

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