INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES



C.R.U.S.H. & Smush

C.R.U.S.H. & Smush is an acronym that helps students annotate any literary text: circle, read, underline, star, highlight, and smush (summarize).

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C.R.U.S.H. & SMUSH

Summary

To C.R.U.S.H. & Smush an article or reading, have students circle new vocabulary, read the article, underline words they know, star main ideas, highlight evidence that supports those ideas, and summarize (smush) the text into their own words. By the end of the activity, each student will have summarized the main ideas and supporting evidence of the article or reading.

Procedure

1. Provide students with an article or literary reading.
2. Have students skim through the reading and **circle** any new vocabulary and write these words in the margin of the reading. Students should then look up a definition of each word and use each in a sentence written in the margin.
3. Next, students should **read** the article, using their knowledge of the new vocabulary.
4. While reading, students should **underline** the vocabulary they already know.
5. While reading, students should **star** the main ideas throughout the reading.
6. After reading, students should **highlight** evidence that supports the main idea. (This does not mean highlighting every line after the main idea. It means selectively picking out the key points that support the main ideas.)
7. Finally, students should summarize and condense (**smush**) the article into their own words. Each summary should include all starred main ideas and evidence.