

Save The Last Word...For Me

Purpose:

Save the Last Word... for ME! is a processing and discussion strategy that helps students construct meaning for a reading, viewing, or listening experience. Students take an active stance in their reading, asking questions, and looking for points of agreement or disagreement as they interact with other readers to discuss their reading topic. This strategy also allows students to examine and develop their role in a discussion.

Materials need for this strategy:

- Multiple copies of a text OR Multiple readings on the same topic
- 3 X 5 cards or slips of scrap paper

Procedure:

1. Each student individually reads the text.
2. As the students read, they write on the first side of the 3X5 cards (or slips of paper) any segments of the text, words, phrases, or sentences that catch their attention. These segments can be quotes or ideas they find interesting and want to discuss later. Students should record the page number of that segment if the text is lengthy.
3. On the other side of the card, the student writes out what they want to say about each quote or phrase they selected. This can be questions, points of agreement or disagreement. Complete at least 3 cards to use for discussion.
4. Once they have completed the reading, put students in small groups to share their cards.
5. Before the group discussion, students go through their cards and put them in order from most important to least important in terms of their desire to discuss them. (If in the process of sharing, someone else uses the same quote, the person sharing next will choose the next quote on his/her list.)
6. Choose a student to begin the process. That student reads **only** his/her quote to the group and **adds no other information**. The other members of the group react to what was read. The student who read the quote then has the last word about why that segment was chosen basing the remarks that he/she wrote on the back of the 3x5 card and on the group discussion.
7. The process then continues with another student sharing his/her quote/statement until every student gets to lead or time concludes.