

ACTIVITY 4: PREDICT AND CONSTRUCT MEANING WITH THE THESIS MODEL

Overview

The Thesis Model graphic organizer, when used for descriptive text, helps students to:

- ▶ consider their current beliefs and understanding of a subject
- ▶ think about the most important points the author makes in the material
- ▶ look for support from the text for the key points
- ▶ verify the author’s conclusion

Teacher Activity

- 1) Prepare a list of true and false questions (e.g., as might be given on a test).
- 2) Give students the blank Thesis Model graphic organizer, or have them create their own.
- 3) Before the students read, orally ask questions (p. 26) which prompt the students to consider their current knowledge and beliefs about the subject of the text (e.g., “What are all living things made of? Is every living thing unique?”). Students write their thoughts in the ‘I think’ space.
- 4) Give the students the list of true and false questions.
- 5) Students read the text, looking for and recording their answers. In this way students learn about the key points, evidence, examples and details on the Thesis Model graphic organizer. This can be done either as an individual activity, or discussed in small group reading and questioning.
- 6) Students create a conclusion from the facts noted.
- 7) Students compare their conclusion to the initial thoughts in step 3 (the ‘I think’ space) and discuss their findings with the class.

