

Learn to Listen, Listen to Learn– Teaching Strategy

Quick Overview

Students listen by paraphrasing and reflecting on a peer's ideas before responding. This strategy reinforces listening as a critical learning skill and promotes deeper understanding, respectful dialogue, and more meaningful academic conversations.

Skill Objective

Students will...

- Actively listen to a peer's ideas without interrupting.
- Accurately paraphrase another speaker's message using their own words.
- Reflect on a peer's ideas by naming key points, reasoning, or emotions.
- Respond thoughtfully by building on, questioning, or connecting to what was said.
- Demonstrate respect for diverse perspectives through attentive listening behaviors.

Content Objective

Students will...

- Use active listening skills (paraphrasing and reflecting) to deepen understanding of lesson content by accurately restating peer responses before contributing their own ideas.

Civics Skills Connection

Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices:

- **Connection to daily life:** Students are encouraged to listen to and paraphrase ideas shaped by classmates' backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences.
- **Connection to local issues:** The strategy ensures students understand others' viewpoints accurately before responding, reducing misrepresentation or dismissal of community-based perspectives.
- **Respect emphasized:** Listening without interruption and reflecting others' ideas promotes mutual respect.

Prep ahead

- **Select Appropriate Prompts**
 - Choose open-ended questions or tasks that invite explanation, reasoning, or interpretation that relate to the topic of study
 - Anticipate moments where misconceptions or varied perspectives may arise.

Strategy Steps

1. Set the Purpose for Listening- The teacher explains that listening is part of learning, not just waiting to talk.
 - Share why students will paraphrase and reflect before responding.
 - Preview expectations: Listen - Restate - Respond.
2. Listen
 - Students listen closely without interrupting to understand the speaker's ideas.
3. Restate
 - The listener paraphrases what they heard.
 - The speaker confirms or clarifies.
4. Respond
 - After confirming understanding, the listener responds (builds on, questions, agrees, or disagrees with reasons).
5. Switch and Repeat
 - Students switch roles and repeat the process.

Customizations

- **Option 1: Model it:**
 - Model Active Listening-Teacher models with a volunteer or sample response. Demonstrate:
 - Facing the speaker
 - Not interrupting
 - Paraphrasing key ideas (e.g., “What I hear you saying is...”).
 - Reflecting meaning or feeling
 - Introduce Sentence Stems- Provide and display stems such as:
 - “What I heard you say is...”
 - “So you’re saying that...”
 - “One important point you made was...”

- Pose a Meaningful Prompt- Ask an open-ended content-based question.
- Student A Speaks- One student shares their thoughts without interruption. The listener focuses only on understanding, not preparing a response.
 - Optional: Listener takes brief notes or uses a listening checklist.
- Student B Paraphrases and Reflects- Listener restates what they heard using their own words. Including:
 - Key idea(s)
 - Reasoning or evidence
 - Emotional tone if relevant
 - Speaker confirms or clarifies: “Yes, that’s right” or “Let me add...”
- Listener Responds- Only after accurate paraphrasing does the listener add their own idea. Responses should:
 - Build on
 - Ask a clarifying question
 - Agree or respectfully disagree with evidence
- Switch Roles and Repeat
 - Students switch Speaker/Listener roles.
 - Process repeats to ensure equal participation and practice.
- Reflect on the Listening Process- Brief class or partner reflection:
 - “How did paraphrasing help your understanding?”
 - “What made a response stronger?”
- **Option 2: Assess it**
 - Look-fors:
 - Listen carefully to the speaker
 - Restate ideas accurately
 - Reflect on key points or perspectives
 - Respond after confirming understanding
 - Stay respectful and thoughtful