

FOUR STRATEGIES THAT WILL HELP YOU BETTER UNDERSTAND YOUR READING

1. PREDICT and CONNECT:

- **Gather clues:** scan the title, headlines, images, captions
- **Make a prediction:** *What is this going to be about? How is the story going to turn out? What is the subject?*
- **Make a connection:** *What do I already know about the topic? What do I want to know about the topic?*
- Read and stop periodically to ask how closely the content matches your initial prediction? Do you need to revise your prediction?
- Generate a list of unknown words or unclear phrases as you read. See *Clarifying*

2. SUMMARIZATION “LIST THE MAIN IDEAS”:

- After you finish reading, put it aside and generate a list of main ideas **from memory:** *What does the author want me to know?*
- Consult with the text to fill in any missing main ideas.
- **Good summary statements include only the most important idea from each paragraph or section.** *What is being supported versus what is doing the supporting?*

3. QUESTION GENERATION:

- Write down at least one question that can be answered by each main idea.
- Good questions should include: who, where, when, why, what, and how.
- Anticipate the questions that will be asked of you.

4. CLARIFYING:

- **Unknown words:**
 - Look for clues from the sentence before and after
 - Look it up in the dictionary. Are there multiple meanings?
 - Use your own words to ***describe*** the unknown word or draw a picture to represent its meaning.
- **Unclear phrases or sentences:**
 - Reread the phrase carefully and try to understand it.
 - Look for clues in the sentence before and after.
 - How can the phrase or sentence be reworded or simplified?