

Intervention

Making Inferences

Making an inference about a situation requires combining what you know or can see with your previous experience and background information. We do this in order to make an educated guess about what is going on and why. As children work to make sense of their world, they make many inferences about both novel and everyday situations. Students who consider past experiences as they make inferences make more accurate guesses about situations.

Teach your students to think about everything they know before they formulate an inference. Remind them of the great help their own past experience and personal knowledge will bring to their thinking. Help students to realize that good inferences are not always necessarily accurate.

You may divide up a paper with “What We Know for Sure” and “What we Infer”. List things that you know for sure about a picture or a text on one side and things that you reasonably infer on the other.

References

- Bowers, L., Huisingsh, R., LoGiudice, C., Johnson, P., and Orman, J. (2005). *Spotlight on Reading Comprehension: Making Inferences and Drawing Conclusions*. East Moline, IL: LinguSystems, Inc.
- Bowers, L., Huisingsh, R., LoGiudice, C. (2005). *Tasks of Problem Solving: Elementary*. East Moline, IL: LinguSystems, Inc.