

SAVE THE LAST WORD FOR ME

This strategy is used to engage students in active reading (during); and to stimulate discussion and processing after reading.

1. Distribute the reading material.
2. Group participants in 3-4-5 member groups. (The larger the group, the longer the activity takes.)
3. Distribute one card per participant.
4. Each participant reads the material and selects one sentence (or more) which they find interesting, important or provocative.
5. The participants write the sentence from the text on the card.
6. On the reverse side of the card, the participants write why they selected that particular information, Why did resonate with them?
7. One participant in each group shares by reading her/his sentence aloud; every other participant in the small group comments about the sentence. The individual with whom the sentence originated may NOT read their comment from the back of their card until all other participants have made their remarks. Hence, “ Save the last word for me.”
8. The process is repeated until each member of the group has contributed her/his sentence.

Advantages:

1. Assists students in focusing and engaging in reading as they know they will have to share with other group members.
2. Assists students in selecting main points.
3. Provides interchange of information and opinions.
4. Furnishes a small arena of discussion where students can confidently share their opinions.
5. Clears up misunderstandings.
6. Assists students in processing information.
7. Extends information beyond the immediate understanding.
8. Helps students articulate their understanding of the material.