

Bleich's Heuristic for Responding to Reading

Purpose:

To provide a framework for reflection about text. Students are asked to think about their responses to text two ways—affectively and associatively.

Materials:

Literary text works best, but certain nonfiction selections (e.g., current events, issues likely to cause emotional reaction) will also be good choices.

Procedure:

Students respond to these three questions [list from current sheet] in writing, after which discussion may (or may not) follow. Teachers may want to encourage students to make notes about their responses rather than developing full essays.

1. How did this piece affect you? (write and share)

2. Why did the piece affect you in this way? Consider reader-based and text-based reasons. (write and share)

3. What's the most important [word, words, idea, paragraph, etc.] in this piece? Why do you think so? (write and share)

References:

Bleich, D. (1978). *Subjective criticism*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Rasinski, T., & Padak, N. (2000). *Effective reading strategies* (2nd. Ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.