

Active reading strategies for understanding complex topics

The Digital Divide

The digital divide is a term used to describe the discrepancy between individuals who have access to computers and the Internet and those who do not have access. This concept has afforded opportunities for research, analysis, and programming in communities and regions both within a specific state and globally. While technological advances and the diffusion, or spread, of various devices that allow connectivity have, according to some, reduced the digital divide, other analysts remind us that inequalities still exist, with older people, racial or ethnic minorities, people with lower incomes, and rural residents still lacking the access and skills that would allow them to bridge the digital divide. A second level digital divide describes the gap between the consumers of content on the Internet and producers of content on the Internet. This second level is more clearly associated with economic status, or income. Individuals with more time to access the Internet can become more creative in their interpretation of information and have the luxury of accessing and exploring the digital tools necessary for content production. Globally, multiple efforts are attempting to bridge the digital divide. Their common goal is to find long-term, sustainable solutions to this inequality by attempting to provide access to technology, connectivity, and skills that will enable more individuals worldwide to access, use, and learn from digital resources.

I don't understand what this means! How do I get to the bottom of it?

Try this!

- Break the reading into **smaller pieces**.
- **Annotate** each section with **notes** about what it says.
- **Make connections**—use concepts that you do understand to help you understand unfamiliar concepts.
- Use **questioning** to look up the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary words.
- Look for **definitions** and **explanations** in the reading using parentheses or signal phrases such as *or* and *for example*.



Take your time!

Break the reading into short sections. Use your own words to make notes about what each section says.

Question the meaning of important words. "Digital divide" is in the title. It's what the article is about.

Look for definitions in the reading.

Look up words you don't recognize.

The digital divide is a term used to describe the ^{"difference"} discrepancy between individuals who have access to computers and the Internet and those who do not have access. This ^{"idea"} concept has ^{"provided"} afforded opportunities for research, analysis, and programming in communities and regions both within a specific state and globally.

Digital divide = A difference in computer/Internet access. This provides opportunities for research etc. worldwide.

Make connections between what you understand and what is not familiar. This is about the Internet, so "connectivity" means connecting to the Internet.

Make connections to what you have already read. Here's this phrase again!

Look for the word "or" to signal a definition.

While technological advances and the diffusion, ^{"connection to Internet"} or spread, of various devices that allow connectivity have, according to some, reduced the digital divide, other analysts remind us that inequalities still exist, with older people, racial or ethnic minorities, people with lower incomes, and rural residents still lacking the access and skills that would allow them to bridge the digital divide.

Despite the spread of devices that allow Internet access, some people still don't have access to it or skills to use it.

Look up words you don't recognize.

A second level digital divide describes the gap between the consumers of content on the Internet and producers of content on the Internet. This second level is more clearly associated with economic status, or income. Individuals with more time to access the Internet can become more creative in their ^{"finding meaning"} interpretation of information and have the luxury of accessing and exploring the digital tools necessary for content production.

Second divide=gap between consumers and producers of Internet content

People with more money have more free time to spend looking at Internet content and learning how to produce it.

Look for definitions in the reading.

Look for the word "or" to signal a definition.

Make connections between what you understand and what is not familiar. This is about the Internet, so “digital resources” must mean “Internet content.”

Look up words you don't recognize.

Globally, multiple efforts are attempting to bridge the digital divide. Their common goal is to find long-term, ^{"can be maintained"} sustainable solutions to this inequality by attempting to provide access to technology, connectivity, and skills that will enable more individuals worldwide to access, use, and learn from ^{"internet content"} digital resources.

All over the world people are trying to close these two gaps by providing better Internet access and training.

What this is about-- The Digital Divide

Two kinds of digital divide--

- between those who can access the Internet and those who can't.
- between consumers of Internet content and producers

The spread of technology has reduced the gap but some people still don't have access to the Internet or the skills to use it.

All over the world people are trying to close these two gaps by providing better Internet access and training.

So THAT's what it says!

