

Strategic Literacy Instruction

A video series featuring Dr. Anita Archer



About Dr. Archer

Anita Archer, Ph.D., recipient of eight outstanding educator awards, has taught elementary and middle school students and has been a faculty member at San Diego State University, the University of Washington, and the University of Oregon. She currently serves as an educational consultant to school districts on effective instruction, classroom management, language arts instruction, and study skills instruction. She is a nationally known presenter and has authored training and curriculum materials, chapters, and books. Among her works are the acclaimed REWARDS reading program and the Tough Kid Video Series.

Vocabulary Instruction, 2nd grade

The students have listened to the read-aloud book *Wolf?* by Becky Bloom. During the reading, brief explanations of words were given. Now, three words have been selected for explicit, robust vocabulary instruction: concentrate, impressed, and educated.

Focus ... As you watch this video, ask yourself:

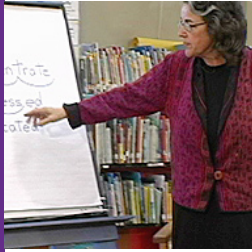
What instructional steps were used to introduce each of the vocabulary words?

What other good instructional practices were used?

Feedback ... After you've watched the video, review the instructional steps that the teacher used, as summarized below.

Introduce the word

- Write the word on the board or overhead projector.
- Pronounce the word or guide students in using their decoding skills to determine the pronunciation of the word.
- Have students pronounce the word, repeating the word a number of times if the word is unfamiliar or difficult to pronounce.



About the video

Filmed at McKinley Elementary School in Tacoma, Washington
Videographer, Dima Yaremenko
Production date, December 2008
Elapsed time, 7:52 minutes

This video was produced as part of a series developed by Dr. Archer with support from the Sonoma County Office of Education in Santa Rosa, California, www.scoe.org.

Provide a student-friendly explanation

- Make sure that these definitions contain only known words and are easy to understand.

Illustrate with examples

- The examples can be concrete, visual, or verbal.
- Verbal examples were used in the video to illustrate concentrate, impressed, and educated.

Check students' understanding

- Ask "deep processing questions."
- Have students discern between examples and non-examples.
- Have students generate examples.

Other Good Instructional Practices

1. Actively involve the students in the instruction using:
 - Group responses (choral responses) when the answers are short and the same.
 - Partner responses when the answers are long or different.
 - Partner responses followed by individual turns.
 - Thumbs up to indicate that they have an answer.
2. Enrich the vocabulary instruction by:
 - Infusing decoding in the presentation of words by having students read long words in parts.
 - Involving the students in the examples.
 - Providing multiple exposures to each word.
 - Relating the words to their use in the read-aloud book.
 - Reviewing words at the end of the lesson, using simple word associations.
 - Suggesting ways that the words could be used.
3. Coach students during partner responses, allowing students to experience success when they answer in front of classmates.