Pre-Reading Activity
Vocabulary/Concept Map

Before reading a text, it is a good idea to become acquainted with key vocabulary terms that will guide the reading and analysis of the text. The study of leaders gives way to terms such as the following: social, political, cultural, trends, conflicts, issues.

Word/Concept
social

Definition or prediction of definition:

- having to do with people in a community
- relating to various groups of people interacting with each other and affecting each other in one way or another

Compare to (synonyms):
- public
- civic
- shared
- communal

Contrast with (antonyms):
- private
- personal
- restricted
- reserved

Examples (from life or reading)
Social conditions exist in the towns and cities in which we all live. People’s interactions with each other on a daily basis reflect social conditions in all societies.

Pictures/Symbols

Taken from “Teacher Reference Sheet 4.3” in AVID High School Writing Curriculum
Adapted by Brad Ruff – AVID Region 8
Vocabulary/Concept Map

Word/Concept

Definition or prediction of definition:

Compare to (synonyms):

Contrast with (antonyms):

Examples (from life or reading)

Pictures/Symbols

Taken from “Student Handout 4.3” in AVID High School Writing Curriculum
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Pre-Reading Activity
Vocabulary Cards and Word Wall

Vocabulary study at any level helps students improve their reading and writing skills. This activity allows students to interact with vocabulary and learn it through a hands-on method incorporating visual, linguistic, and oral representations. The word wall provides a place for ongoing display of target vocabulary, giving students multiple opportunities to review the words and affording the teacher an easily accessible reference point for using the vocabulary in class.

Materials
- 3” by 5” note cards OR 5” by 7” note cards OR paper cut to acceptable dimension
- Colored markers
- Dictionary

Instructions
1. Select a list of key words related to a reading selection or lesson.
2. Assign each student one word or the entire list. This could also be done in pairs.
3. Have the student look up the word in the dictionary to find a good, “working” definition.
4. Have the student write the word on one side of the card/paper and add a graphic.
5. Have the student write the definition on the other side of the card.
6. Have the student come up with an original sentence using the word or a form of it correctly.
7. Model a presentation of a word card for students, and have them present their own words.
8. Post the words on a word wall or bulletin board for easy and quick reference during class.
9. Assign periodic writing assignments or oral activities that require students to use the words.

You may add items to the front and/or back of the card such as the part of speech, various forms of the word with their respective parts of speech, the word’s etymology, and other components of the word. Below is a sample vocabulary card for the word social.

social

adj. gregarious, communal, collective
[Latin: socius – companion]

Related Words

adv. socially
n. society
adj. societal

Social activity refers to interactions people regularly have with each other.

Taken from “Student Handout 4.3” in AVID High School Writing Curriculum
Adapted by Brad Ruff – AVID Region 8