Responding to the Text

1. Generate some questions about the text you plan to read; you might also jot down or brainstorm ideas that come to mind from previous readings or your own experience.

2. Discuss these ideas with your group. Add any new ideas to your notes as you listen to others or share your ideas.

3. Set a purpose for your reading: This might be a question you want to answer by the time you finish reading.

4. Preview the text to familiarize yourself with it; look for words or other content that might cause you trouble.

5. Read the text, taking notes as you go. These notes should help you prepare to contribute to or lead the discussion about this text when you return to class.

Consider using some of these questions:

- What questions come to mind while you read or after you finish?
- What does the text make you wonder about?
- What do you want to discuss?
- What did you think about while you read?
- Did your thoughts or feelings about this subject change as you read?
- How might a person with a different perspective respond to this text?
- What point is the author trying to make?
- What surprises you?
- What does the author want you to think?
- What is the author’s purpose?
- What did you think of the author’s writing style?

Performance Standards: Talking about Reading

- Read the assigned text and come prepared to discuss it.
- Listen to others’ comments without interrupting.
- Ask others questions to help them clarify or elaborate on their position or idea.
- Support your own ideas with evidence from the text; refer to specific passages.
- Contribute your own thoughts, feelings, and questions to ensure a lively conversation.
- Respect others’ opinions and contributions to the discussion.

Learning the Language

- I think_____ because...
- A good example of _____ is...
- This reminded me of _____ because...
- _____ was important because...
- One thing that surprised me was__ because I always thought...
- The author says that...
- The author/character wants...
- The author’s purpose is...