Dr. Brenda Curtwright
Anclote High School in Pasco County
2020 NIE Teacher of the Year Honorable Mention

Brenda is a speech language pathologist at Anclote High School in Pasco County.

Brenda was chosen as a 2020 NIE Teacher of the Year Honorable Mention for using the Times on a weekly basis to improve students' vocabulary, enhance student engagement and encourage them to be active stakeholders in their community.

Early in the school year, students identify what type of articles they like to read and how that type of article can help them achieve their Individual Educational Plan goals.

Then, each week, students select an article of interest from any section of the Times, read the article using learned comprehension strategies and answer the "Five Ws" (who, what, why, where and how). Then, they self-evaluate their use of comprehension strategies using a rubric specifically developed for this exercise.

According to Brenda, having students identify how the Times can help them achieve their goals not only heightens their classroom engagement, but also makes news and newspapers relevant by connecting stories to students' lives. For example, one student who was not initially interested in reading anything, but wanted to become a chef, chose articles about food and dining.

Brenda was also honored as an Honorable Mention in 2019.

Tampa Bay Times Close Reading Lesson Plan

1. Students select an article from any section of the Tampa Bay Times of interest.

2. Students reads the article using learned comprehension strategies (see TBT Close Reading Rubric for taught strategies).

3. Student writes answers to Wh- questions (who, what, why, where, and how) about the article on TBT Wh- Worksheet.

4. Students self-evaluate their use of comprehension strategies using the Tampa Bay Close Reading Rubric.

5. Students are scaffolded throughout the exercise to encourage interaction with the text.

Tampa Bay Times Close Reading Rubric

Instructions: Circle the number above the category which identified strategies you used to engage with the text in the article you read.

1	2	3	4	5
-Read portion of text.	-Read complete text. -Pre-read comprehension questions.	-Underlined/ highlighted important facts/details about text. -Underlined/ highlighted unfamiliar words. -Pre-read comprehension questions. -Identified text features (headings, subheadings, pictures, captures).	-Underlined important facts/details about text. -Underlined/ highlighted unfamiliar words. -Underlined/ highlights striking features in text. -Pre-read comprehension questions -Interpreted texts by writing notes summarizing each paragraph. -Identified Wh-questions about text to help clarify information.	-Underlined/ highlights text important facts/details about text. --Made notes in margin. -Identified something that surprised you. -Identified patterns in text (repetitions, contradictions, similarities). -Wrote questions about the "how" and "why" of the patterns noticed. -Made inference about text.

Answer the following questions after reading your article.

1. Who is the main person/people the article is about?

2. What is the main idea and 3 supporting details?

3. Where did the key occurrence(s) occur?

4. Why did the key action(s) occur?

5. How was/were the key action(s) resolved?