

QUICK TIPS

WATCH-AND-WRITE-SOMETHING

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We would like to thank Sylvia Ellison for this Quick Tip. She has adapted the reading strategy Read-and-Say-Something (page 58 in the CRISS manual) to a strategy appropriate for learning information from a video, Watch-and-Write-Something. Earlier this school year, we received the following information from Sylvia.

While at a Project CRISS training, I was taught the Read-and-Say-Something technique. I really enjoyed using it, and I found that it worked in my classroom. During one class, I used a film as text. This class was a “FUSE” class (regular and SLD students combined with two teachers). For this activity, I asked my students to *Watch-and-Write-Something*. I used the same principles as Read-and-Say-Something. Occasionally, I would pause the film and ask my students to react. They were never allowed to summarize what happened (although that could be an option). Instead, they had to tell what they liked/disliked or with what they agreed/disagreed, or they had to predict what would happen next or tell why an event had occurred.

After each writing reflection, I offered my students a chance to share all or part of what they had written. As incentive for reluctant students, I offer extra credit for sharing. Sometimes, I will have only one or two share, sometimes none, sometimes more. At the end, our reflection is more extensive, and then I discuss the director’s craft of the filming as well as the students’ responses to it. The first video discussion always has me showing them that they reacted just as the director wanted; the second time we do this, they see how they are manipulated by sound, camera angles, lighting, etc.

Because more of my students are visual rather than auditory learners, they were able to more quickly recognize symbols, irony, and suspense as well as other aspects of film craft. Sometimes they amazed me with the concepts they described without being prodded. The final results were that my students not only enjoyed the film better, but they were able to transfer the technique (Watch-and-Write-Something) to their own reading and film watching.

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