

# Anchor Comprehension Lessons with Anchor Charts



**KRISTINA SMEKENS**

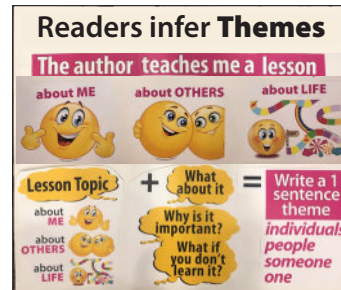
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Anchor charts serve as visual reminders of how to do something new & complex.

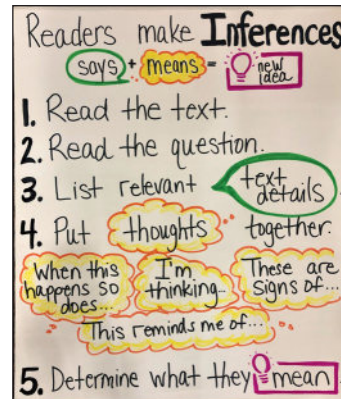
## CONCEPT ANCHOR CHART

- Define the concept.
- Note when & where applicable.
- Identify characteristics & considerations of each type/facet.



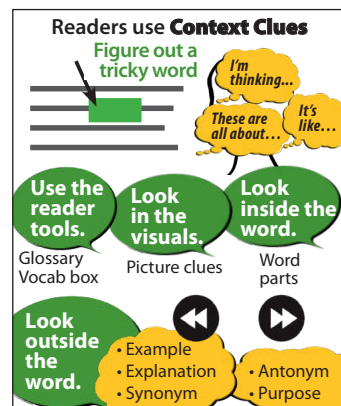
## PROCESS ANCHOR CHART

- Reveal the procedure's purpose or importance.
- Note when & where applicable.
- Break down the individual steps, including tips, tricks, cautions, and considerations.



## STRATEGY ANCHOR CHART

- Define the strategy.
- Note when & where applicable.
- Provide a list of options or choices.

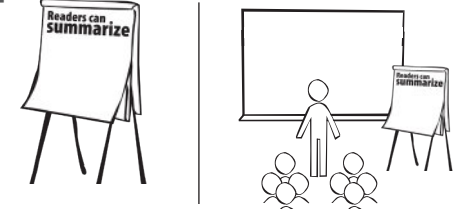


## DURING INSTRUCTION:

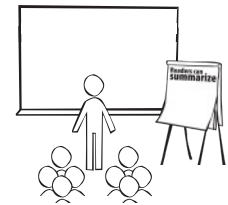
Capture the footprints of teaching.

### STEP 1 | INTRODUCE

### STEP 2 | INSTRUCT



### STEP 3 | INTERACT



### STEP 4 | CLOSE

**Whole-class instruction is the starting point.**

## AFTER INSTRUCTION:

Allow students to relive the learning experience.

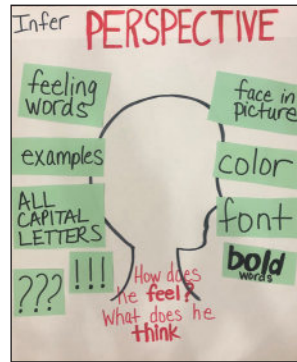
Anchor charts support Growth Mindset. They aid in flexibility, foster independence, and lead to mastery.

# Plan the entire anchor chart before executing the first lesson in the series.

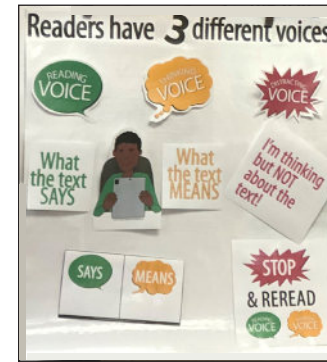
## BEFORE INSTRUCTION

Select the medium and determine how the chart will “grow.”

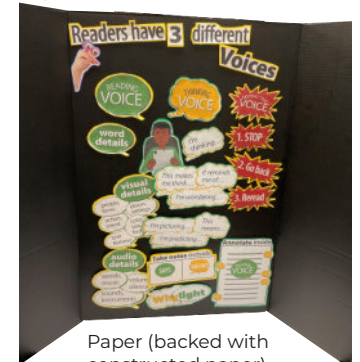
- OPTION 1: Write by hand.
- OPTION 2: Build digitally.
- OPTION 3: Prepare pieces to add.
- OPTION 4: Peel to reveal.



Colored paper affixed to chart paper.



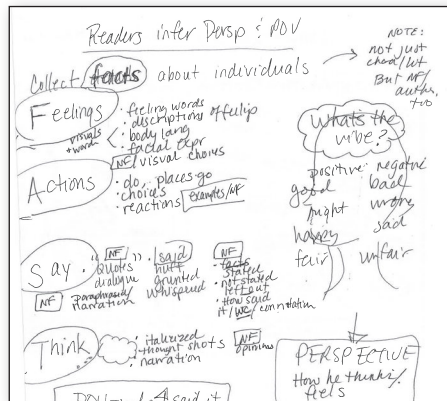
Laminated paper Velcroed to chart paper.



Paper (backed with constructed paper) affixed to a tri-fold presentation board.

## Plan the content & spacing.

- Title the chart with its single concept, procedure, or strategy.
- Provide a simple, kid-friendly definition.
- List key information using efficient language—and visuals.
- Create logical flow and organization.
- Utilize bullets, numbers, and arrows.
- Illustrate information with visuals and color.



Paper tacked to a bulletin board.



Laminated cardstock Velcroed to a corrugated plastic yard sign.



## Outline the instructional scaffold.

- Consider *what* to reveal *when* in the series.
- Note the yearlong rollout.



JPG files inserted into a Google Slide.

# Maximize the impact of the anchor chart.

## DURING INSTRUCTION

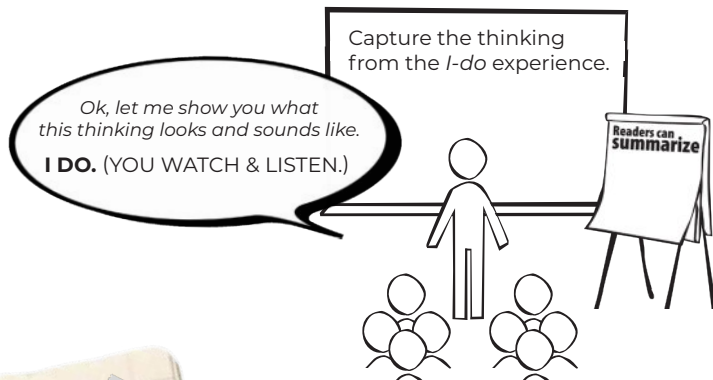
Introduce each new “piece.”

- Build background knowledge before adding the ingredient to the chart.



Refer to the universal anchor chart *while* modeling specific examples.

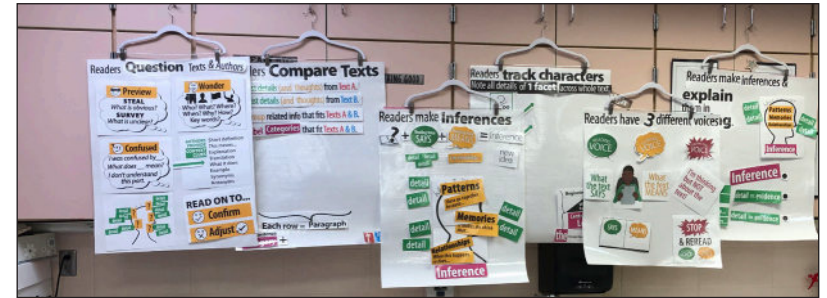
- Introduce a specific example.
- Bounce between the example and the anchor chart.
- *Think Aloud* about the example *while* referring to the anchor chart.



Reconsider note-taking expectations.

- Prioritize your instruction over their note-taking.
- Provide mini-charts for their personal use.
- Assess what stuck with exit tickets.

## AFTER INSTRUCTION



Post the chart for immediate use.

- Post it in a student-friendly location within the classroom environment.
- Include it within relevant spaces/stations.
- Place a photocopy in an all-class binder.
- Post it within Seesaw, Canvas, Google Classroom, etc.

Share a photo/screenshot with students.

- Place it in their homework folders.
- Include it within the class newsletter.
- Add it to their devices.
- Include it with future assignments.

Store the chart for future use.

- Save it digitally.
- Store it neatly for quick access.

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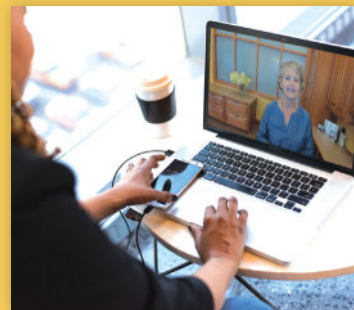
The road map for teaching reading comprehension



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