

Key ideas to help students become metacognitive:

TEACHER SAYS	TEACHER DOES
You can understand this passage/paragraph by monitoring your own thinking as you read	Modeling: When I read this paragraph I thought the author was talking about planes, but then I realized the topic was birds and the plane reference was just an analogy, a way to help me understand how the eagle's flight is sometimes like a plane. I re-read the paragraph and I found the specific clarification in sentence four.
You have a copy of the page of the text so that you can write questions you need to clarify and words that you need to know.	Modeling: I'll show you exactly how to do this. Listen as I tell you exactly what I am thinking and as I write exactly what I think will help me. Now you write exactly what will help you.
Now that you have finished this topic. Write in your journal what helped you	Modeling: Here are 3 things that helped me understand this text.
One way to monitor your thinking is to turn the headings into questions.	Modeling. Here are two questions I have made.... where do you see them fit in the text before you?
Now write down the way that the questions helped you focus on the main idea of this text	Modeling: In the second paragraph here are the ways the question helped me focus and understand the author's purpose for this text.
Now let's pick out the important ideas and try to summarize each paragraph/heading in one or two sentences.	Modeling. I have made two summaries for you to look at. Which one best puts together in a few words the main ideas of the first heading in this text?
Try to write in your journal just how you summarized this page. Write down each step you took. This is a very powerful learning strategy and will help you in each of your content classes.	Modeling. Here is the way paragraph three went for me. As you think about how you understood and summarized this same paragraph, write it down and then tell me how your process differed from mine.