

SAMPLE HANDOUT ON RECIPROCAL TEACHING

Reciprocal teaching means that we exchange roles, that you have an opportunity to teach the rest of the class something related to our course topic of writings. It means that I relinquish the expectations normally associated with my role and pass them over to you for a time.

This arrangement works quite well when there are important materials that need to be covered, but there is not enough time for everyone to read or prepare everything at the same time. It provides us with a way for dividing up the workload, keeping everyone from feeling unduly taxed, while giving everyone an opportunity to be heard.

When we read a particular text, for instance, reciprocal teaching allows for diving up the readings and works best when followed by a common reading. We will use small groups to get this accomplished, with each group taking on the responsibility for a particular chapter. Only those in a particular group will read a particular chapter. Each group will prepare to lead a discussion or make a presentation that takes the rest of us through a chapter we haven't read (though we're familiar with other parts of the text). Additionally, each group will need to think about ways to make their approach interesting to the rest of us. Groups may consider using the blackboard, the overhead, handouts, freewriting, and so on. Use your imaginations. Make connections. Be creative.