

Instructional Strategies – Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

Obtaining, evaluating and communicating information occurs through reading and writing texts as well as communicating orally. Scientific information needs to be critically evaluated and persuasively communicated as it supports the engagement in the other science practices.

Potential Instructional Strategies for *Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information*

1. Have students read a text in small groups that contains evidence and science ideas (DCIs in NGSS) about a specific topic. Ask students to underline the evidence and put a star next to the science ideas.
2. Explicitly remind students of the definition of scientific evidence (measurements and observations). Create a poster with this definition for students to reference in the classroom.
3. Provide students with two or more texts on the same topic. Ask students to compare and contrast the texts, focusing on how well the authors defend their claim. Have students decide which is the most persuasive text. Tell students they will need to explain why they think that text is most persuasive.
4. Do a jigsaw activity with multiple texts. Put students into groups and give each group a different text on a related topic. When students have completed reading the text, mix up the groups so one person who has read each text is in each group. Ask students to briefly summarize their text to their group.
5. Develop a checklist of questions can ask as they evaluate texts. For example, Does the text have a clear claim? Does the text use scientific evidence to support the claim? Does the text have enough scientific evidence to support the claim?
6. Watch two short videos (or listen to two podcasts) about a similar topic. Ask students to compare and contrast the different perspectives on the same topic (e.g. genetically modified food).

For a classroom example of instruction using this science practice, visit our website at www.sciencepracticesleadership.com and click on the Grade 7 Exemplar under Case Studies.