

INSTRUCTIONAL TASK 8

TASK 8 ANALYZE AND COMPARE AUTHOR PURPOSE

When reading multiple texts related to the same topic good readers determine the various authors' points of view, rhetorical style and/or word choice and consider how this impacts the overall effectiveness of the piece. The authors' choices can determine if the text is convincing, engaging, persuasive, or powerful.

Steps Outlined:

1. Select multiple texts related to the same topic or focus question. These might be opposing viewpoints, secondary and primary sources, and/or various rhetorical styles.
2. Students read through the first work without stopping and formulate a single sentence that summarizes the author's purpose for writing the text.
3. They then re-read the text and annotate the text (with notes/bubble clouds/stars/highlighter etc), pointing out words or phrases that support the purpose statement.
4. This task is then repeat with the various documents selected in step one.
5. When all document annotation is complete, students create a comparison of distinguishing features of the various texts, including the author points of view and purpose; rhetorical style; and/or word choice.
6. This could be expanded to include an student created explanatory essay offering a comparison of the texts as well as an integrated summary of the topic.

