

Tools for Administrators

When observing teachers who are implementing the strategy *Making Connections*, you may wish to look for the following:

Components of Effective Instruction: Making Connections	Observed?	Notes
Teacher has a solid understanding of students' existing background knowledge.		
Crucial concepts/topics for building background knowledge are thoughtfully selected.		
Effective methods for activating or building background knowledge are planned in advance.		
<p>Explicit explanation of the making connections strategy is provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hand signal representing making connections is used during the lesson. • An icon poster representing making connections is posted. <p>Students are provided with concrete examples of how and when the strategy is applied; proper terminology used.</p>		
The CPQ links to making connections.		
The teacher uses think-alouds to model making connections multiple times during the lesson.		
The teacher models relevant connections to his/her background knowledge and explicitly explains how each connection enriches understanding of the text.		
Students are engaged in the lesson and have opportunities to share their thinking using Think-Turn-Talk.		
Students have multiple opportunities to practice making connections in a variety of contexts.		
Comprehension is extended or deepened through further questioning or discussion.		