

MODELING THINKING ALOUD

A Strategy for Teaching Students Thinking Processes That We Want Them to Learn or Get Better at...

Modeling Thinking Aloud can be used for teaching students in all subject areas, for example, how to:

Organize notes for a report	Mix colors
Determine the cause(s) and effect(s) of an event	Organize and put away blocks
Serve the ball in tennis	Use strategies to determine the important ideas in a text
Read a large number	Figure out an analogy

GUIDELINES BEFORE:

1. **Identify the skill you want to teach.**
2. **Select a task or example** that requires the successful application of the skill.
3. **Figure out the exact steps needed** to complete the task which you want students to later apply on their own . The teacher has to figure out what the steps are in the skill or skill set before launching into modeling them for students.
4. **Plan a think-aloud script** as if you are a struggling student, making sure you anticipate pitfalls, traps, and difficulties and how to overcome them.

GUIDELINES DURING:

5. **Explain why.** The students have to know why the teacher is doing the modeling. You have to tell them what you want them to learn from it.
6. **Model.** Model the skill using the following guidelines:
 - a. Put yourself in the role of the learner
 - b. Have an audience
 - c. Do not let the audience interact with you
 - d. Think aloud through the task, operation or problem making sure to include:
 - Asking yourself questions
 - Encountering Difficulties and Weighing Alternatives
 - False starts and Self corrections
 - Perseverance
7. **Debrief.** After completing the think aloud, ask the students what strategies or procedures they saw you utilize as you performed the task.
8. **Record and Display.** Record the steps of the task and post the visual where students will be able to refer to it for future use.
9. **Practice the steps.** Have students practice the steps out loud so that they can get feedback on whether they covered all the steps. Think Aloud Paired Problem Solving is a powerful way for students to practice the think aloud steps in groups.
10. **Extend.** Encourage student to think about using the Think Aloud process for other applications.

