

3-2-1 Strategy

Source: <http://www.readingquest.org/strat/321.html>

What Is a 3 - 2 - 1?

The idea is to give students a chance to summarize some key ideas, rethink them in order to focus on those that they are most intrigued by, and then pose a question that can reveal where their understanding is still uncertain. Often, teachers use this strategy in place of the usual worksheet questions on a chapter reading, and when students come to class the next day, you're able to use their responses to construct an organized outline, to plot on a Venn diagram, to identify sequence, or isolate cause-and-effect. The students are into it because the discussion is based on the ideas that they found, that they addressed, and that they brought to class.

How Does It Work?

Students fill out a 3-2-1 chart with something like this:

3 Things You Found Out
2 Interesting Things
1 Question You Still Have

Now, that's just the suggested version. Depending upon what you're teaching, you can modify the 3-2-1 anyway you want. For instance, if you've just been studying the transition from feudalism to the rise of nation-states, you might have students write down **3** differences between feudalism and nation-states, **2** similarities, and **1** question they still have.

See the other attachment for template! It is a PDF file! You can use Adobe Acrobat to open the PDF.

This strategy can be used at any time during your lesson. This also makes for a great physical break to have the students get up and move around to see if another student can answer his/her question! Great discussion starters!!! You might even want to run off a stack just to have for those days when things are going exactly like you have planned!