Stop Complaining and Get the G.I.S.T.

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What is G.I.S.T.
- Reading Strategy
- GIST: Establishing Comprehension
  - The word "gist" is defined as "the main or essential part of a matter," according to Webster's Dictionary.
  - This activity forces students to squeeze meaning into a tight, precise summary.

What is the goal?
- The goal of GIST is to have students convey the "gist" of what they have read by summarizing the text in 20 words.
  - Extraneous details must be discarded as a clearly defined focus is found. It is best to require a sentence format.

What genre’s work with G.I.S.T.
- Best suited for both expository and narrative text. For a novel, for example, have students write a gist statement for each chapter and revise the gist after every new chapter. Finally, they will have a gist statement of the whole book. For a textbook, have students write a gist statement for each section, then revise statements for a gist statement of the chapter.

Why G.I.S.T.?
- Good strategy for any level reader.
  - Students develop skills in identifying main ideas and key concepts in expository text and theme, plot and characters in narrative text.

What is the acronym G.I.S.T.
- Generating Interactions between Schemata and Text
How does it work

- First have the students read the entire first paragraph.
- Answer the 5Ws and H
- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?
- Why?
- How?

Let’s Try It

- Read the first three paragraphs and complete the G.I.S.T.
- Answer the 5Ws and H. Write a 20 word GIST summary.
- Make sure you only use 20 words.
- Make sure there is no “fluff” in the GIST.

How does this work for a reading assessment?

- GIST paragraph one
- Answer the 5Ws and H
- Go to the next paragraph and highlight the first sentence. Write a three word GIST for this paragraph
- Repeat this until you get to the paragraph before the last
- Read the entire last paragraph and make sure it goes back to your first GIST.

Lets Look At the Questions

- Evaluate the questions being asked and underline the important words (GIST)
- Eliminate the answers that do not belong
- Get the answers down to the ones that it could possibly be.
- Make sure you go back and read the section that answers the question.