

Believe and Doubt

This comprehension strategy encourages students to become evaluative thinkers as they discover that they do not necessarily need to believe everything that they read. This strategy works best with material that could be considered controversial.

1. The class reads an assigned amount of text. The text can be read as a whole group, in small groups, or individually.
2. After the reading, the teacher asks student to individually list three things that they believe from the reading and three things that they doubt from the reading. At first, students may have difficulty with this since they may not have always been encouraged to question what they read.
3. When students have finished their lists, break them into small groups to discuss their beliefs/doubts. Give the student groups a chore to come back to the whole class with three things they all agree are clear, three things they all agree they doubt, or if they can't agree on something, an explanation of why.
4. Student small groups return to the full group and report.
5. The shared beliefs/doubts can lead to a class discussion, debate, or writing prompt.

