

Visualizing



As good readers read their textbooks, they are constantly forming mental pictures, or visions, of what they read. Teachers often encourage the formation of these mental images by using a practice known as *deep processing*. Deep processing activates the students' senses by asking them to think about what an event sounds like, looks like, smells like, and feels like. Research has shown that memory is associated with emotions. Therefore, by associating emotions with the content of their reading, they increase the likelihood of comprehending and remembering.

To Teach the visualizing strategy, make a transparency of Graphic Organizer 19 and follow the steps in the left column. You may want to copy the graphic organizer on a piece of flip chart paper.

1. Introduce Graphic Organizer 19. This organizer can be used with any topic that you are studying.
2. To teach the strategy, use the topic of the Iraqi War.
3. Cover up numbers 2, 3, and 4 on the organizer.
4. Show the students the first question. Ask them to close their eyes and think about the Iraqi War. Have them form mental images of what the war might look like. Give them 2-3 minutes to form the images. Then ask them to write words to describe those images. (Or you could ask them to draw a picture.)
5. Look at number 2. Ask students to close their eyes and form images of what the war might sound like. Again, give them 2-3 minutes to form the images. Then have them write words to describe what they see.
6. Follow the same procedure for numbers 3 and 4.

Visualizing

1. What does the war look like?



Answers will vary but may include: *Soldiers fighting, planes dropping missiles, fire destroyed buildings, graves, injured people, convoys of tanks.*

2. What does the war sound like?



Answers will vary but may include: *Gun fire, bombs exploding, people screaming, people crying.*

3. What does the war smell like?



Answers will vary, but may include: *Gun fire, bombs exploding, people screaming, people crying.*

4. What does the war feel like?



Answers will vary but may include: *Fear, excitement, sadness, joy, helplessness.*

To apply the visualizing strategy, introduce a topic in the textbook. Have students repeat the process they used in the practice session.

To extend the strategy, have students use the words they generated to write an essay, newspaper article, or story about the Iraqi War.

Visualizing

1. What does the war look like?



2. What does the war sound like?



3. What does the war smell like?



4. What does the war feel like?

