

Fishbone

In this informal writing activity, the idea is not that students get things “right,” but that the teacher gets a window on the reading process and thinking of the student. Students work independently at first and then share their thoughts with a partner, adding to their fishbone as they gather ideas.

1. Down the center of the fish, write what you believe is the center of gravity in the piece – what the weight of the argument is that the writer is conveying.
2. On the bones extending from the center of the fish, write the key concepts that the writer is conveying.
3. On the bones extending down the body of the fish, write the ideas related to the key concepts that you want to remember.

Share your fish with your partner. Compare ideas. Add any new ideas to your fish.