



Peruse Proper Nouns

Task: Practice the reading comprehension strategy: “Peruse Proper Nouns”

Course Context: In *Nonfiction Reading Strategies* Rebekah O’Dell shares this inter-disciplinary strategy for vocabulary comprehension in nonfiction texts. Try the “Peruse Proper Nouns” strategy and see how it impacts *your* reading experience! All of these articles are from [The Conversation](#). Each article is written by a professional academic and edited by journalists, making it a fantastic source for introducing academic studies and articles to a student audience.

Steps:

1. Choose ONE of the three articles below. (You might choose the one you’re most interested in, or, for an extra challenge, choose the topic you know the least about!)
 - a. [“Bougainville wants independence”](#)
 - b. [“Why Kissinger would have been a Fortnite champ”](#)
 - c. [“An 18th-century rebellion for liberty, equality, and freedom”](#)
2. Before reading the article, **scan** it for proper nouns and make a list using [this chart](#) to organize your findings (it’s the same one your students can use if you do this activity in class!)
3. Do some quick research.
 - a. If you know the person, place, or thing, jot down what you know.
 - b. If you do not know that person, place, or thing, do a brief Internet search, and jot down what you learn.
4. Read the article.
5. Build connections.
 - a. Now that you have read the text, return to your proper noun list, and identify how each proper noun connects to the topic of the text.
 - b. Some proper nouns might have a significant connection to the topic about which you are reading, and others might have a looser or less important connection. That’s okay!
6. Reflect.
 - a. Did this help you?
 - b. What did you learn that you didn’t already know (either about the proper nouns or the topic of the article more generally)?
 - c. How did perusing proper nouns before you read the article help you as a reader? How might it help your students?

