

Reciprocal Teaching Example

Book Discussion on *The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World* by Eric Weiner

Instructor: You have spent the summer reading *The Geography of Bliss* in preparation for the campus-wide book project and the appearance of the author at our Distinguished Speaker Series this fall. The English and Geography Departments are preparing questions to ask the speaker and I am asking for your assistance. We will be using the reciprocal teaching format, which allows members of your small group to actively engage and probe the content through asking questions that remain after reading the text, clarifying topics from the text, summarizing the key concepts in the book and then predicting the author's next subject or content. Working in your small groups, please discuss and respond to the following questions, and record your comments on the Reciprocal Teaching Grid.

Summarizing: Provide a summary of the key concepts and learning(s) from the book.

Clarifying: From your reading what items do you need to probe further?

Predicting: If the author were to write a sequel what would be the topic or focus?

Questioning: What questions do you still have after reading the book?

Example of students' responses:

<p>Summarizing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Eric went to 10 counties to explore the concept of happiness.■ He started by reviewing research from the World Data Base of Happiness in Rotterdam, Netherlands.■ The happiness components range from its being a national policy in Bhutan to the English perspective as a work in progress.■ Paradise and utopia are not the same as happiness.	<p>Clarifying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Weiner defines happiness as a result of living in a country rather than the individual pursuit of happiness.■ The measurement of happiness is unscientific and arbitrary.■ Happiness is not a place, profession or religion but a connection, a relationship.■ We are shaped by our culture, environment and geography.
<p>Questioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ What are other definitions of happiness?■ What data would you collect to measure the happiness of the students at UC Davis?■ What would be the profile of people who transitioned from extreme unhappiness to profound happiness?■ Is the Will Smith movie, the Pursuit of Happiness a case study for analyzing happiness?	<p>Predicting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Eric will continue with a Part II of this book through interviewing people who are happy in their professional or status, e.g. performers, artists, wealthy individuals, trust fund recipients.■ Weiner will continue his world travels and identify other key elements of happiness.■ Weiner will develop a self administered happiness index for the general population.■ Next time we see Weiner he will be unemployed, skipping and whistling while hitchhiking across counties with his journal and camera.