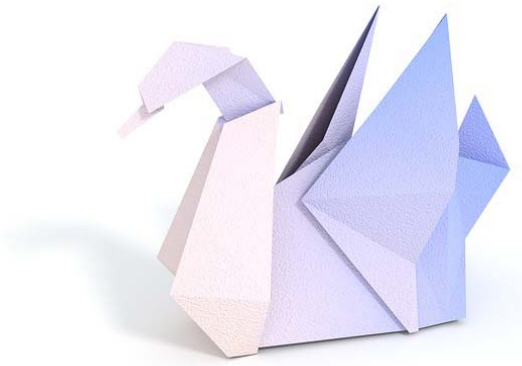


## Paper Talk



**Purpose:** This strategy allows students to develop close reading skills by examining a portion of text in order to figure out its ideas. It develops critical thinking through the questioning of the text and classmates and encourages student-student (written) discourse. Examining a short, key passage from a larger, complex text provides students with a conceptual framework for understanding the larger text and helps them establish a purpose for reading.

### Directions to students:

1. Read the excerpt. Underline the line(s) that you find most provocative or intriguing or puzzling.
2. In the surrounding white space, explain why you underlined that line(s) and what it is that resonates with, challenges, or puzzles you.
3. End your thinking with a question for your classmates.
4. Write your initials next to your thinking.
5. Put your paper in the center of the room (or pass the paper to the person next to you).
6. Select someone else's paper from the center of the room, or take your classmate's paper.
7. Re-read the excerpt, paying particular notice to the parts that person underlined.
8. Read their response and question.
9. Write your response, both to their thinking and question and to the passage itself.
10. End your thinking with a new question for your colleague.
11. Write your initials next to your thinking.
12. Put your paper in the center of the room
13. REPEAT STEPS 5-12 UNTIL IT'S TIME TO STOP.

### Questions for Discussion:

- What do you think of what the passage is saying?
- What do you agree or want to argue with in the passage?
- What lingering questions do you have about the text from which this passage is taken?
- What do you want to find out from it?