

# Strategy: KWL

## (What I know, What I want to Learn What I Learned)

Remember that there are many things that we can do before, during and after reading to help us understand what we have read. The KWL method is a powerful tool you can use with almost any type of reading material; however, it is most useful with textbooks. This strategy asks that you make a concentrated effort to think about what you know about the subject (prior knowledge), what you would like to learn (purpose for reading) and what you actually learn (what is gained by reading or what information may be useful after the reading).

### “K”

1. Take one sheet of lined paper, and draw three columns. Label the first one “K,” the second “W,” and the third “L.” (please see next page)
2. You will work in groups of three.
3. Before reading the selection, brainstorm everything that you know about the topic you are about to read. This may be done by quick writing all that you know about the topic
4. Fill in the “K” column of your KWL chart with everything that you know about the topic.

### “W”

5. List everything that you would like to learn about the topic that is not on your “K” list in the “W” section of the chart.

### “L”

6. After reading, taking notes, and discussing the text, complete the “L” section of the chart with everything that you have learned from reading the selection.
7. Use the **GIST** method to summarize what you have learned in your notebook.

You may be asked to:

- ▲ Prepare and essay on what you have learned
- ▲ Complete a poster/collage (started in the “K” section).
- ▲ Prepare and oral presentation on the topic



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