
STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING MATH PROBLEM-SOLVING

SCHEMA THEORY INSTRUCTION



- Explicit instruction of mathematical problem structures and problem-solving strategies.
- Schema-broadening instruction to teach students to generalize strategies to novel problems.

F.A.S.T. D.R.A.W.



- F - Find** what you are solving for.
- Underline keywords.
- A - Ask** "What is important information?"
- Find and circle number phrases
- S - Set up** the equation.
- Write equation with numbers in correct order.
- T - Tie down** the equation.
- Solve the problem if you can, or solve using **DRAW**.

- D - Discover** the sign.
- Circle the sign and say the name of the operation.
- R - Read** the problem.
- A - Answer** the problem or draw.
- Answer the problem if you know how to, or draw pictures to solve it.
- W - Write** the answer.

COGNITIVE STRATEGY INSTRUCTION



1. **Read** the problem for understanding.
2. **Paraphrase** the problem in your own words.
3. **Visualize** a picture or a diagram to accompany the written problem.
4. **Hypothesize** a plan to solve the problem.
5. **Estimate/predict** the answer.
6. **Compute** the answer.
7. **Check** your answer.