


Teacher Tips for Clarifying

Definition of Clarifying: To clarify is to make something clearer or easier to understand.

- Remind students that this is a good thing! If they need something clarified, they have recognized an area where information could be presented more clearly! Place emphasis on this aspect, rather than making it about a student’s lack of understanding.
- Encourage use of academic language in class with the following frames:
 - Excuse me, I need clarification. I don’t quite understand_____.
 - Excuse me, can you clarify _____?
- Students may confuse clarification with questioning. Please contrast the definitions to show the difference:
 - Literal question—a quiz type question to ensure everyone is on the same page.
 - Inferential question—a conversation starter about the text.
 - Clarification—asks for information to be presented more clearly, so that greater understanding can be attained.
- Encourage students to mark areas of text using the following codes:
 - Word (W)
 - Sentence or Phrase (S)
 - This is just confusing (?)
 - I can’t visualize this 
- Students may use google images to get the gist of words or phrases they are unsure of.