

Stop and Jot Statements

“Stop and Jot” can be a very useful strategy in order to monitor your comprehension and understanding of the text you are reading. It’s very simple and doesn’t take much time. All you do is take one of the sentence stems listed below and finish it off with your own thought regarding what you have read. By doing this, you are focusing your attention onto the text and self-evaluating to make sure you’re not confused!

When reading a novel, I suggest using a Stop and Jot statement every other page or so. When reading a more difficult passage in a textbook or on a standardized test, I suggest using a Stop and Jot statement at the end of every other paragraph.

Here are the Stop and Jot stems I use in my classroom. Feel free to add to this list if there is a stem that particularly helps you!

- I think...
- I can picture...
- I wonder...
- I predict...
- I understand...
- I hope...
- I don’t get...
- If I was (character), I would...
- This reminds me of...

Stop and Jot

Students periodically stop and think about information that they are reading and jot down their thoughts. They might stop after each paragraph, each page, or each section of reading. Students may write about something they learned, something they are wondering about, or a prediction about what they might learn next. If students use sticky notes to do this, they can mark the sections of the book or article. Then, the notes can be added to a whole-class chart that will help build content knowledge and understanding.