

GUIDED IMAGERY

for The Westing Game

PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

Guided imagery is a prewriting technique. By giving students a chance to relax and become a part of a story, they become more deeply connected, providing them with feelings and emotions that may help strengthen their writing. Through visualization, students will create the story in their mind, bringing to the story their own thoughts, opinions, and feelings. This strategy not only improves student writing, but helps strengthen class discussions and group work as well as student interest in the visualized topic.

DIRECTIONS

1. Begin this strategy by preparing the room to fit the mood of the story you will tell. For The Westing Game, dim the lights, light candles if possible, and do anything you can think of to create a creepy, spooky Halloween night.
2. Ask students to stretch, inhale slowly, exhale, and relax. Tell them to find a comfortable position before closing their eyes and listening. With music playing in the background to create the mood (spooky music of course), being talking softly, taking the students into the world you want them to imagine.
3. Read a story or a series of prompts, taking your time in order to allow the students to visualize each image. Spend between five and ten minutes telling the story. The students continue to listen with their eyes closed.
4. After you complete the story, invite students to open their eyes and to write down as many descriptive images as they can remember. Give the students ten minutes to write. Ask them to close their eyes again while you continue playing the music. Ask the students if they can see anything else. Then have the students write their full experience in narrative form. Give the students between fifteen and twenty minutes to write their narrative. Encourage students to share their writing with the class.

ASSESSMENT

Because this is a pre-writing strategy, there is no assessment necessary. However, you should see vivid imagery and sometimes more personal applications in the student's writing

