**Selective Highlighting**

*Background*

Selective Highlighting/Underlining is used to help students organize what they have read by selecting what is important. This strategy teaches students to highlight/underline ONLY the key words, phrases, vocabulary, and ideas that are central to understanding the reading.

*Benefits*

Selective Highlighting/Underlining is a flexible strategy that may be tailored to fit various types of information, and different skill-levels. You can employ the selective highlighting/underlining for many different instructional purposes (i.e., key vocabulary; main ideas). This strategy can also be integrated with the use of technology and electronic information such as eBooks (see example below). As students study, selective highlighting/underlining helps them learn to pay attention to the essential information within a text.

*Create and use the strategy*

Introduce students to the Selective Highlighting/Underlining strategy and discuss the purpose of the activity (i.e., focus on vocabulary, main ideas, etc.). Then model the procedure to ensure that students understand how to use Selective Highlighting/Underlining. Give students time and means to practice the technique and reinforce successful performance. Monitor and support students as they work.

Teacher should ask students to:

1. Read through the selection first.
2. Reread and begin to highlight main ideas and their supporting details.
3. Highlight only the facts which are important or the key vocabulary not the entire sentence.
4. After highlighting, look at what they have highlighted and summarize what they read.
5. Take what was highlighted and write a summary paragraph.

Teachers may wish to have students use various colours of highlighters to identify main ideas from details (e.g., use orange to represent main ideas and yellow to represent supporting details).

When using an eBook, teachers should ask students to:

1. Read through the selection first.
2. Reread and select a portion of the text that the student wishes to highlight by highlighting or changing the font of the text OR using text boxes for comments.
   * From the menu select the add text box option.
   * Type in the comment into the text box and click anywhere outside the text box to finish.
3. Summarize what they read by using the highlighted text or text boxes to write a summary paragraph.

*Taken from www.adlit.org*