READ RETRIEVE CONNECT & USE ™
IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Read, Retrieve, Connect and Use (RRCU) is probably best used as a method of formative assessment after teaching and learning has taken place on the standard being addressed. But in some cases, you may be able to use it as a "hook" to introduce a new topic, particularly if students already have had some background in a previous course. RRCU can also serve as an excellent mechanism for review prior to testing or as closing activities in block classes.

- Start with a whole class KWL on the board. Lead the class (or have a student) in collecting what students already know about the topic of the standard and write in the K column. Identify areas that need further study in the W column. Now have students complete the RRCU and afterwards complete the L column.

- Consider having students work in small groups to complete the RRCU, particularly if you have mixed ability classes. Students can collectively write what they remember from the text and then work together to answer the questions.

- For struggling readers, you might want to read aloud and have them follow along underlining/circling key words and ideas.

- For higher-level classes, you might assign as homework. Time permitting, you could start the read and retrieve portion in class and have students complete the second half for homework.

- Use the articles to start discussions about scientific research, experimental design, and scientific processes.

- Write the main idea from the article on the board and get students to shout out connections from class until you've covered the whole board. This is a great way to remind students about how earlier material might connect in with current topics.

- Create your own RRCU with articles that are grade-level appropriate, scientifically-based and interesting or odd to best engage students. Remember to focus on the standards to guide both your article choice and question development.

- Once higher-level students are familiar with RRCU modules, challenge students to create an RRCU themselves (locate text and design questions) and administer to classmates.

- Enrich the RRCU by projecting photos of the text subjects or other visual material relating to the content.