POSSE (Predict, Organize, Search, Summarize, Evaluate)

Procedures: In the POSSE process, two of the strategies (predict and organize) were presented before reading and were led by the teacher. The other three strategies (search, summarize, and evaluate) were used during reading and students took turns leading the discussion. The Predict step included having the students brainstorm and preview the text, similar to the procedure in CSR. In the Organize step, students categorized and labeled their ideas from the Predict process and generated a semantic map (see Figure 8.19). This map was then reviewed to help students identify unknown information and set the purpose for learning. During the Summarize step, the group leader began the dialogue by giving the main idea for the section and then discussing it with the students. When they agreed, it was recorded on the map. The group leader then asked questions to help the group generate supporting details about the main idea that were also recorded on the map. This was completed for each section until a semantic map was generated for the article. The Evaluate step included three reading strategies to further guide the group’s discussion: compare, clarify, and predict. First, the students compared the map they generated before reading with the map they generated during reading. Second, the students asked questions to clarify unfamiliar vocabulary and unclear information. Third, the students predicted what the next section would be about. Finally, after reading the entire selection, they reviewed the Prediction and Search/Summarize maps to compare their prior knowledge with what they read and to find out whether their prior concepts were confirmed or disconfirmed by the text.

To facilitate the students’ use of the strategy in their discussions about the text, they emphasized the following cues through the use of a cue card:

- **Predict**
  I predict that.
  I’m remembering...

- **Organize**
  I think one category might be...

- **Search/Summarize**
  I think the main idea is…
  My question about the main idea is...

- **Evaluate**
  I think we did (did not) predict this main idea
  Are there any clarifications?
  I predict the next part will be about.
FIGURE 8.19
POSSE Strategy Sheet for an Article on the Bermuda Triangle

**Predict what ideas are in the story.**
- People disappear
- Ships and planes disappear near Florida in a different country
- Stories about it not all true
- Not exactly a triangle
- 5 planes disappeared stories on TV about it

**Organize your thoughts.**
- People disappear planes disappear
- magnetic force
- Fighter planes disappeared
- Student Questions:
  - What does it look like?
  - Why do things disappear?
  - Who discovered it?

**Where it is**
- Near Florida in different country
- Stories on TV stories not true--gossip

**What happens?**
- Bermuda Triangle

**What it looks like**
- More than 100 miles

**Strange things happen**
- Strange fog reported
- Compass goes wild
- Sky yellow

**Incidents**
- Plane to Miami
- Pilot reported seeing lights
- Plane disappeared
- Rescuer found nothing

**Where it is**
- Atlantic Ocean
- Off coast of Florida
- Touches Bermuda between North & South America

**Natural explanations**
- Tidal waves
- Currents
- Earthquakes

**Search for the structure.**

**Summarize. Summarize the main idea in your own words. Ask a "teacher" question about the main idea.**

**Evaluate. Compare. Clarify. Predict.**