



Supporting All Learners

Middle and High Instruction

Check out these resources:

[Great Graphic Organizers](#)

[Wall-Wisher Online Post-it Notes](#)

[How to Use Wall-Wisher](#)

[Interactive Mathematics](#)

[NCTM Tips for Math Teachers](#)

[Support for teachers of students with learning disabilities](#)

Using Textbooks More Effectively



Ways to Use Textbooks More Effectively:

- Have empathy. Remember, the material may seem easy to you, but it may really be Greek to the kids.
- Help kids get started. Front-load teaching. Give students support before, during and after reading.
- Don't leave kids alone with their textbooks. Harness the social power of collaboration. Have kids work in pairs, groups and teams. Allow them to discuss, debate and sort-out ideas at all different stages of reading.
- Choose wisely. Make more selective assignments. Make strategic choices about what is important.
- Supplement richly. Textbooks should not be the sole source of information. They are but one important resource. Include authentic sources such as magazine articles, websites, newspapers, etc.

Activities for Using Textbooks More Effectively:

1. Checking Out the Textbook:

Allow time for students to become acquainted with the textbook. Take the time to carefully uncover the text's structure with students. Use a chart such as the Textbook Feature Analysis to do this. [Click here](#) to see the Textbook Feature Analysis form.

2. Jigsawing:

Create "expert groups". Students in an "expert group" read the same portion from the textbook. The "experts" present their portion of material to the class. [Click here](#) to see a sample Textbook Jigsaw Sheet.

3. Guide-O-Rama Study Guides:

Prepare a written guide that shows students the way through a textbook chapter. This activates prior knowledge and sets purposes for reading. A Guide-O-Rama is a reading roadmap with a think-aloud written down. [Click here](#) to see a sample Guide-O-Rama.

4. Vocabulary Word Sorts:

Create several sets of key words on a small piece of paper. Include some terms students already know, some familiar words that are used in an unfamiliar way and others that are brand new words. Put students in small groups and tell them to put the words in categories that the group agrees upon. When the activity is over, students will be excited and interested in reading the textbook to check their work.

5. Textbook Circles:

Design a textbook circle around the same framework as a literature circle. Students could fill out a KWL chart before reading the text. Form textbook clubs, balancing student strengths and weaknesses. For an example of how one teacher uses Textbook Circles, [click here](#).

6. SQ3R: Remembering Facts from Long Texts:

SQ3R stands for survey, question, read, recite and review. Teach students how to work through each of these steps to ensure deeper understanding of text read. For details on each of these actions, [click here](#).

Intervention Consultant
Coaching Dates



~Language! - Emma Winfield will be with us on May 17-18 for end of year visits to each middle school



Newsletter Challenge:
Have you had an "aha" moment reading this newsletter?

Be the **first** teacher to email me something new you learned from this newsletter and receive a copy of the book, *Subjects Matter: Every Teacher's Guide to Content-Area Reading*, by Harvey Daniels and Steven Zemelman.



Need Help? Have Questions?

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