

Ways to Support Reading in a Learner-Centered Classroom

Underlying Philosophies:

- Reading is the basis of all academic learning: the student who reads can succeed in most learning environments. The student who does not read will be handicapped in any learning environment.
- However, each subject area has its own traditions and conventions of literacy. Ability to read with comprehension may not automatically transfer from one subject area to another.
- Teachers are expert readers in their subject area; like other experts, we are not always conscious what we know. To help students read, we must learn to surface and display what it is *we* do with a text.
- The initial stages of this process consume class time, but pay off. In the beginning, less “coverage” can be more.
- Learning is a social activity. Reading is a social activity. Students learn from each other, as much as or more than they learn from the instructor.
 - We learn by doing things more than by being told things.
- Reading is a process of inquiry. Expert readers do not just answer questions; they ask them.