

...ing well is the skill that underlies students' success in learning all other subjects; ...s, all content-area teachers should be teachers of reading.

Some of the fast, effective strategies in this handbook can easily be integrated as tools for mastering core content.

To do well on any standardized test, your students need to master many concepts. The foundation for comprehending concepts is learning vocabulary. Once students understand basic vocabulary, they can move on to learning at a conceptual level.

Across the state, more than 60% of Kentucky's graduating seniors enroll in college, reading below 12th grade level; now, students who enroll in public institutions reading below 12th grade are automatically placed in developmental reading courses. Some students could be placed in as many as five different vocabulary/reading courses; the charge is regular college tuition, but students do not receive college credit. Consider the cost—in dollars and in hours.

When the reading requirement was signed into law, I volunteered to teach developmental reading at the college level. The students who enrolled in my reading courses were usually reading from 3rd to 8th grade levels. A very small number of those students had disabilities that had prevented them from learning, but more than 90% did not. I made a deal with my students: If you do *everything* I ask of you, you will reach 12th grade level by the end of the semester. Every semester, more than 95% of my students reached that goal. Since the passage of No Child Left Behind, I have received hundreds of requests from K-12 schools for reading training. Many schools have adopted curriculum and strategies and have increased reading levels and test scores.

Based on my documented track record, I have reached some conclusions about teaching reading:

- 1) Reading can be taught; 2) Reading must be taught . . . because without instruction, many students will not learn; 3) Reading must be taught after elementary school; and 4) With minimal training, every teacher can teach reading.

As you look through these pages, not everything will apply to you or your content area; however, let me encourage you to identify several ways you can incorporate learning strategies in your classroom throughout the year.

Good luck! You will make a significant difference in the learning lives of your students.

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