RA in Allied Health

Reading Apprenticeship (RA) is making a difference in Allied Health! The sequence of classes that aspiring nurses move through on their career pathway is academically intense. The nursing sequence involves an enormous amount of difficult reading. Reading Apprenticeship gives instructors and students the metacognitive tools necessary to conquer the reading and the material.

Three of Pam’s favorite routines to encourage metacognitive conversations are Think Aloud, 25-Word Summary, and Reading Logs. She also loves beginning each quarter with a Reader’s Strategy List, which the class refers to often and revises throughout the program.

Pam gushes about 25-word summaries, “This RA routine has led to an in-depth discussion that extends beyond the assignment and leads to a much greater understanding and engagement with the text.”

Pam’s success has led her colleagues to get involved in Reading Apprenticeship as well.

Leslie Lehnhoff is an instructor who worked with the CNA I-BEST program and is currently teaching Medical Terminology. Leslie also feels that RA is a tremendous tool in the classroom for pre-nursing students.

Leslie uses the 25-Word Summary with short textbook sections and Outlining routines to help students work in small groups to synthesize information and present the material in new form to solidify comprehension. These routines also help learners with varied learning styles and reading levels work together for the greater success of everyone.

Leslie reports, “Students are generally either turned off by textbooks or feel intimidated by them. RA helps to bridge the gap between, ‘sorry, I didn’t read it’ and ‘great, we read it together’. And it’s making a difference — equipping students to tackle difficult text empowers them to succeed in comprehending the course content and move successfully through the rest of their pathway.

Instructors in the nursing sequence are making sure that their students get an early advantage with Reading Apprenticeship.
Planting the Seeds for RA

Fifteen Basic Studies faculty and staff have joined a Reading Apprenticeship (RA) Learning Community.

These readers will meet over lunch break from 11:00 to 11:35 each Wednesday in the Library, Room C-203 beginning October 20, 2010 to discuss the book Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman.

Faculty and staff are invited to bring their lunches and join their colleagues for a time of sharing and discovering how to present Reading Apprenticeship routines in their classrooms.

The story will be interesting for teachers and appropriate for the upper levels of ESL and ABE classrooms. We will apprentice ourselves in each other’s reading processes, thinking, and ideas for presenting this novel in our classes.

Michele Lesmeister will facilitate the sessions and provide ongoing training with Reading Apprenticeship routines as part of the institutionalization of RA on our campus.

Too Busy to Read?

No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance.

—Atwood H. Townsend

Library Item of the Month

The RTC Library has materials to support and help improve student reading and comprehension skills. For more info, contact the Library at 235-2331 or via email at librarian@RTC.edu.


RTC Library call number: 371.39 WORMELI 2009

Join the RATs!

RATs (Reading Apprenticeship Teachers and supporters) is the RTC support group for those who want to use WestEd's Reading Apprenticeship®.

Become a RAT and learn how to help improve your students' reading skills and comprehension.

For more info about RA at RTC, scurry over to our RATs website and blog at http://rtc-rats.org/

Also visit our new RA/RATs LibGuide at http://libguides rtc.edu rats

The RAT Pack is the training and planning leadership team to help get you started. Contact one of them today for more info about RA or RATs:

- Debbie Crumb
- Jenna Pollock
- Michele Lesmeister, Team Leader