Online RA Training

The Reading Apprenticeship® (RA) initiative at RTC over the past two years has offered support in reading instruction to over 1,381 students, extended training and mentoring of more than 800 hours to full and part-time faculty and served as a mechanism to get the discussion started on campus about reading and how instructors can assist students by apprenticing them in routines founded in research and routines that help them carry on metacognitive conversations about all types of text. Our data has shown that when faculty discuss the barriers of text, allow students to learn new ways to approach text, and promote a social community around reading, that classroom dynamics and skills improve.

Now we have added another tool to help faculty come on board with Reading Apprenticeship. WestEd, the educational research non-profit organization that developed Reading Apprenticeship is offering an online class in Reading Apprenticeship. RTC's Michele Lesmeister worked with WestEd to create this course, and RTC currently has 25 full and part-time faculty enrolled in this three-credit course that is offered through California State University and taught by Michele.

These faculty members are doing a fantastic job connecting their course curriculum to the principles of Reading Apprenticeship. In addition, as they try out the routines in their classrooms, they are learning a lot about their students and about their reading processes. This, in turn, is promoting new approaches to reading in the classroom.

The Reading Apprenticeship for Community College Faculty online course will be offered again in the fall. The cost of the tuition, materials, and support will be $695.00. If you are interested in this training, please speak with your dean and then email Margot Kenaston at mkenast@wested.org.

Thank You!

The RAT Pack would like to thank the RTC administration, faculty and staff for the support of Reading Apprenticeship and our efforts to start a serious discussion about how we approach reading inside and outside our classrooms. We could not have had the successes we've had without your support, humor, and willingness to play along with our rat-like antics!

RAT Review

The Rat Review is taking the summer off. With the wind down of the Achieving the Dream initiative to spread RA on campus, the RAT Pack is taking a break from our campus-wide efforts.
Ask a RAT

“What’s a RAT to do over the summer break?”

As you are kicking up your little RAT feet over the summer break, we recommend that every once in awhile you let your mind wander back to reading and reflect on how it’s a vital skill in your students’ lives. Once you start noticing reading, you’ll realize it’s necessary to almost everything we do. Here are a few examples:

Do I want Mango Sorbet or Cherry Garcia? – As you stand in front of the freezer debating your ice cream choices, consider reading: How is the product description different from the nutrition label? Is there a different audience? What strategies do you use to read the table of nutritional facts? Do you know what all the abbreviations mean? Do your students ever need to read tables of information?

Are we there yet? – As you attempt to navigate to your summer vacation spot, consider reading: What skills do you need to interpret directions? Is that different than looking at the visual map? Once you’re already lost, what strategies do you use to get back on track? What other resources or knowledge do you draw on? How do these skills and strategies relate to your program?

Should we cook out on Saturday? – As you check the weather forecast for your grilling adventures, consider reading: How do you know where to find this information? How important is the source of information? Do you read all the details or scan for specific information? Do you read all the ads at weather.com? How do you know they are ads? How do you integrate the new information you learned about the forecast into other information to make your cookout plans?

These reading skills and strategies not only help you enjoy your summer margaritas while paddling around in flip-flops, they are also essential to our students’ work and personal lives. And remember, YOU are the expert on how reading manifests in your field. So in between naps, think about how you can apprentice your students to become reading experts in the fall. And if you have any questions, just ASK a RAT!

What Did the Dog See?

Let us know how your reading of Malcolm Gladwell’s collection of “greatest hits” essays What the Dog Saw and Other Adventures is going. Join other RTC staff in the campus-wide discussions at https://sharepoint rtc.edu/sites/rtcreads

Check back often as more discussion questions are added on a regular basis. Questions? Ask the RAT Pack. READ On!

Join the RATs!

RATs (Reading Apprenticeship Teachers and supporters) is the RTC support group for those using WestEd’s Reading Apprenticeship® (RA) to improve student reading.

For more info, visit our website and blog at http://rtc-rats.org and our 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 us:
- Debbie Crumb
- Jenna Pollock
- Michele Lesmeister, Team Leader