Preparing for the Un(der)-prepared

Working with Community College Students in Etudes

by Marion Heyn, Retired LAVC English Professor & Etudes Trainers

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They can rip a lesson apart!

Prof. Marion's Beefs

- Come in late without funds for books

- Have made no real plan to study

- No idea how much time, effort needed

- Expect A's for minimal work

- Don't take correction well

- Lack imagination, curiosity

- No rearrangement of home life (i.e. childcare, car...)

They don't read!!

- Who are our learners & how do they drive us nuts?

- How big is the problem?

- Some solutions I have used successfully.

- What could you do in your discipline?

- Wrap-up: Q&A, FAQs, SOSs, PDQBach's

They keep coming, more now than ever before...
and we don't have the classes for them all
AND
We are under attack

AND

The situation can be seen on all 112 campuses [:…] Most of them enter ill-prepared for college-level work. **85% need remedial English, 73% remedial math**. Only about 1/3 of remedial students transfer … or graduate ….

"We're at the breaking point," said Jack Scott…. *LATimes*, Sept. 23, 2012 A22

What can we do

- Early in term start slowly

- Allow time for meet&greet

- Detailed syllabus & class tour assignment

- Low-value exercises

- Models & demonstrations

- Tutorials & videos

Who are they?
Ask them!

Survey!!

Demographics, language
Computer, browser, etc.
Skills & Talents
Previous course, book, etc.
Goals & Expectations
Units & # Hours of work
Favorite flavor ice cream

Share it with the class!!

Know the Rules

We didn't always know them.
Share that!

Reveal your own learning history

- Role models & mentors

- We weren't always brilliant, were we?

- Blue books, red books

- Jargon of college

- How to be a student

Modularize instruction
Follow with activity

Use the Etudes Tools!

Course Map to Survey to Module to Discussions to Modules to ....

Design Authentic Assessment
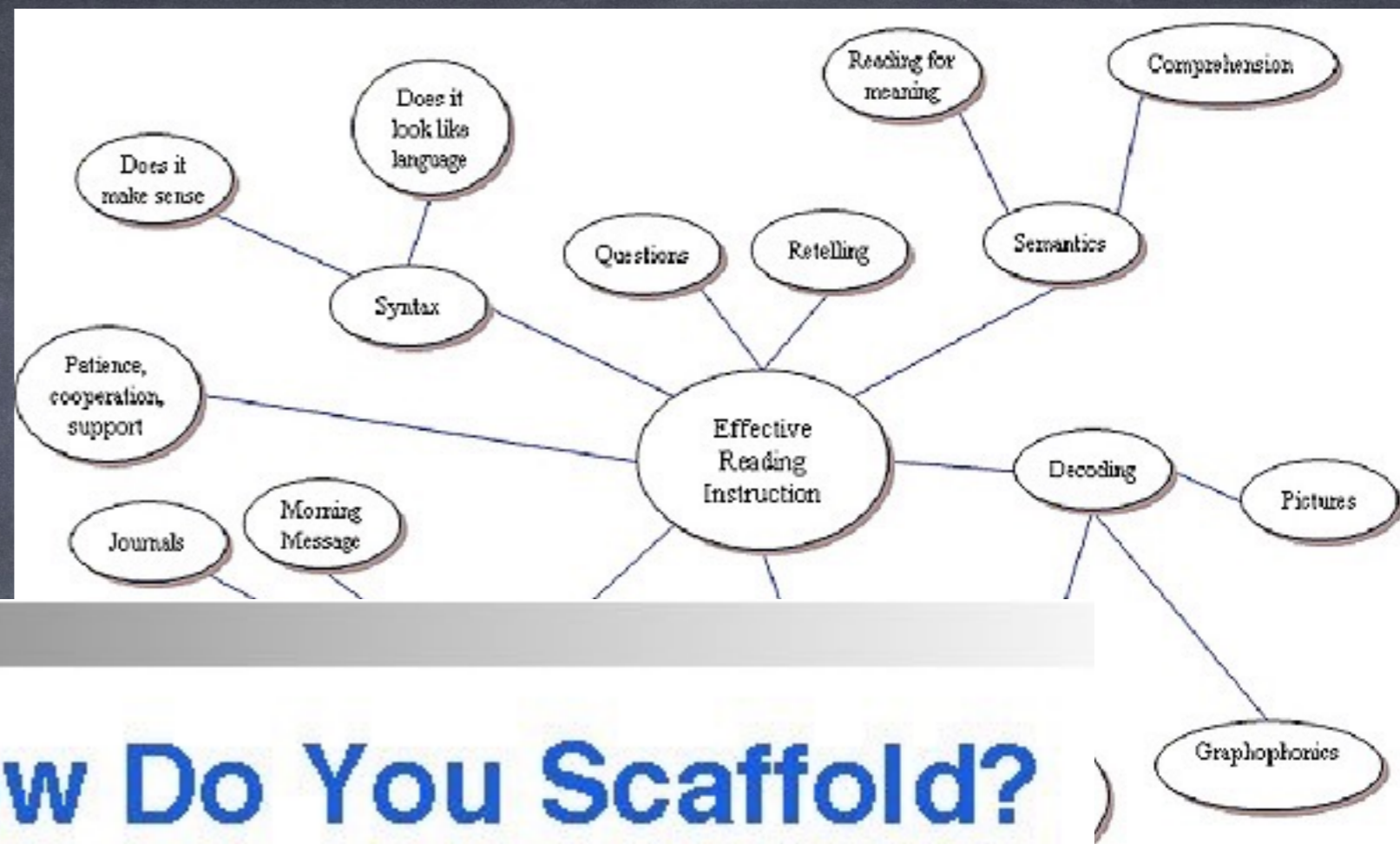
Write short scenarios
What do __-ists do?
Connect it to students' lives
Why should we know it?

Scaffold
instruction

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How Do You Scaffold?

- Model performance while thinking out loud

- Pair advanced learners with developing ones

- Provide prompts, links, guides and structures

- Fade when appropriate

Encourage collaboration:
Assign group projects

Problem-based learning is active learning

Builds confidence
Strengthens learning
Deepens learning
Engages students
Surprises instructors

Use metacognitive reflection occasionally

Learning journals

Post-exam self evaluations

Assignment review forums

CATS =feedback + reflection

Classroom Assessment Techniques

Quick checks on student learning

CATS

- Minute Essay

- Muddiest Point

- Background Knowledge Probe

- Memory Matrix

- Empty Outline???

10 Amazing Life Lessons You can Learn from Albert Einstein:

1. Follow your curiosity
2. Perseverance is priceless
3. Focus on the present
4. The imagination is powerful
5. Make mistakes
6. Live in the moment
7. Create value
8. Don't expect different results
9. Knowledge comes from experience
10. Learn the rules and then play better

10 minutes!!

A little time & attention makes a huge difference

Thanks and happy teaching/learning online!