

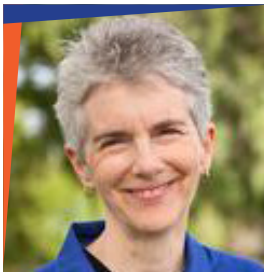
TEXT-BASED ACTIVITIES THAT ENGAGE MULTI-LEVEL STUDENTS IN LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

Much of our teaching starts with texts, whether it's a few paragraphs of reading in a required textbook or an authentic piece of news or a feature article from a magazine. This presentation is about how to use such texts in ways that go beyond teacher explanation to engage students in the learning process. Activities cover activation of pre-reading schema, exploration of vocabulary and grammar, comprehension, and post-reading critical and creative thinking. In addition to engaging students, the focus of this presentation is on accommodating different proficiency levels in a multi-level class. A key point is giving students choice, whether it's through the section of the text students examine or the particular question they answer. Another key point is giving students responsibility for learning and teaching others. When dealing with vocabulary, for example, low-level students are given the meaning of three new words and are tasked with thinking of examples. Mid-level students have three words with multiple meanings and asked to use a dictionary app to identify the correct meaning for the context. High-level students have collocations added to their task. All are responsible for presenting their findings to the class. Workshop participants will explore this process using a sample short text, reflecting at each stage how they can apply the ideas to different texts in their own teaching context.



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