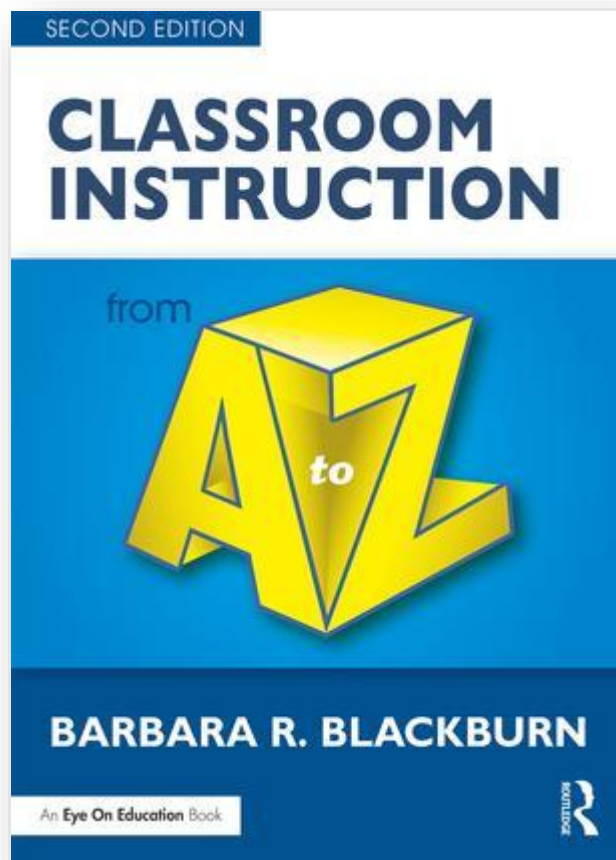


A Book Club Facilitator's Handbook For:



General Activities for Teachers and Administrators
Developed by Kendra Alston, Kennedy Middle School

Pre-Reading Activities

Please allow teachers to choose one or more of the following activities to complete before being handed the book.

Journal Sentence Starters

Active learning requires...

The key components of active learning are...

By giving students a choice in your classroom you...

It is important to gather information about your students because...

It is never too early to...

In today's visual society teachers must...

In an ideal world...

Effective listening requires...

Expand your students' horizons by...

A student's productivity will be maximized if...

Homework will be more productive if...

One of my challenges as a teacher is...

Strike a balance between...

Comprehension will deepen if...

If you want a student to read...

A Passage to Ponder

Reread the following paragraph:

It is critical to understand your students' prior knowledge. If teaching is helping students move from where they are to where they need to be, you must know where they are. Your success at helping your students connect what they already know to the new content determines how well they will retain new knowledge.

What strategies do you use to help your students make connections?

The Top 10

List the top 10 NO Homework Excuses.

Think of 10 ways you can help create a more positive attitude towards homework. Refer to this list as needed.

During Reading Suggested Ideas

Bag of Tricks

Get a brown paper bag and label it “Great Ideas”. While reading the book, use index cards to write down strategies designed to activate the learning process. Throughout the school year, you can refer to your “Bag of Tricks” to gather more ideas.

Connecting with Quotes

Blackburn introduces each of her chapters with a quotation. In a reading journal or on regular notebook paper, draw a line down the middle of the paper. On one side write “Quotes” and on the other side write “Connections”. As you come to each quote, write it down under the quote side of your paper. Then, write how you connect with that quote under the connection column.

The Writer’s Block

Create an original poem or write a letter to a first year teacher using the following terms:

effective
active
foundation
choice
invest
encourage
focus
organize
visual

structure
literacy
rigor
opportunity
engage
strategic
model
balance

After Reading Activities

One Minute Essay

Use a 3X5 index card to write a brief summary about this book. Have someone collect all of the index cards and create a Professional Reading Wall display with the title of this book and all of the summaries around it.

Graffiti Boards

Use large chart or butcher paper to creatively write down symbols, pictures, words or phrases that you associate with the information found in this book. Share your “Graffiti Charts” with other members of your study group.

Only the Facts

Determine the five most important facts you have learned after reading this book. Order them from most important to least important, giving reasons for your first choice.

Dr. Blackburn loves to hear your questions, comments, or successes! She regularly includes stories in her books from teachers and leaders. If you have tried an idea, or adapted a strategy or you have another activity that helps your students thrive, please contact her:

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