

Stacey Morgan

Professor Schilling

EDUC 352

17 October 2008

Are these 2  
 ^ Separate concepts?  
 Chapter 13 Reflection

English and Language Arts <sup>(S)</sup> important to the overall education of all students because through these classes, students will learn how to read, comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and form and support *excellent!* opinions. These higher level thinking skills and processes are important in every subject area as well as in daily life functions. To use the upcoming elections as an example, students can judge news reports, articles, and speeches by the candidates using the tools that they learned while analyzing the characters, plot, and theme of the latest novel they read in class. They can also use those same comprehension and analytic skills to understand and study other content areas. Another reason why my content is so important is that students will learn how to communicate effectively by studying English and Language Arts. Students will receive the written and oral skills they need to communicate both academically and in the work force by studying language structures, grammar, vocabulary, and appropriate discourse methods for various situations. Lastly, studying English and Language Arts is important because it will help develop students' world view by introducing different people and cultures as well as historical events through literature.

In order to accomplish these goals and to help my students gain the benefits of studying English and Language Arts, I like the idea of using a combination of basal textbooks and authentic literature, using text enhancements to teach reading comprehension, and teaching skills for effective written communication. I want to use a combination of basal textbooks and authentic literature because the textbooks provide structured, grade appropriate lessons and stories while authentic literature encourages independent reading (Mastropieri and Scruggs, 2007, p.296). Good basal texts are also

*I like that you want a balance*

based on state academic standards. The publishers know what material needs to be covered and provide a roadmap to assist teachers. For example, the basal textbook that is used at my high school placement includes all of the standards at the beginning of the text and explains which stories can best be paired with each standard. It is a great resource and starting place for teachers as well as students. *absolutely!*

The textbook also includes background information on the authors and contexts of each work of literature as well as explanations of literary concepts and vocabulary highlights. However, I would not want to rely solely on the textbook because I think it is important for students to be able to dive into authentic literature based on their interests and needs to promote independent reading skills. Some of my favorite lessons in high school were over novels that were not included in our textbooks such as *A Separate Peace*, *Things Fall Apart*, and *A Prayer for Owen Meany*. *What wonderful selections!*

In order for students to get the most out of my class <sup>?</sup> think it is important to teach reading comprehension so students can understand and pull out the necessary information from the literature. Mastropieri and Scruggs (2007) suggest using "illustrations, maps, diagrams, visual spatial displays, semantic feature analysis charts...and other adjunct aids developed to accompany materials to increase comprehension" (p. 306) By using these features as well as study guides and outlines, students will have to closely read the text and think about the material as they read. I do not remember being asked to use these tools in an English class until I went to college, and now that I think back about it, I am really surprised that I was never given text enhancements at an earlier age because I really do think that they can be very beneficial, especially when a close reading is expected and necessary. *good*

Even though I do not remember being taught specific reading comprehension strategies in high school, I do remember being taught writing strategies. I am very thankful that my teachers took the time to break down the elements of essays and research papers because I was more prepared to write college papers than were some of my peers because of this additional instruction. For research papers, I

*I can tell! 😊  
Your writing demonstrates maturity!*

develop these  
talk about them a bit  
more  
Morgan 3

think it is very beneficial to students to take the time to teach outlining strategies. For essays and stories, I liked Mastropieri and Scruggs (2007) SPACE and THINK-STOP-DARE strategies (p. 320). Each type of writing has a different purpose, audience, style, and process. By being taught composition strategies for each of the writing samples they are expected to produce, students will understand the writing process and become better at effectively communicating through their writing.

Yes!!

Special education students can be included in my classroom by collaborating with the special educators on how to best address the needs of my students. I can utilize more graphic organizers and story mapping than I might otherwise use; adapt their reading materials by enlarging the font, using Braille, or having the books put on tape (p. 311); and modify the length of their projects and papers. I will also try to integrate topics that interest the students to help make the reading material more enjoyable for everyone. I also really like the authors' idea of using peer tutors (p. 312). This will allow students to practice reading aloud without being in front of the entire classroom. I also think this is a great way to generate discussion and assist the special education students with reading comprehension. Working with their peers can also help with social skills and may help keep their anxiety levels low because they are responding to one or two people, not to the entire class. When it comes time to have a class discussion over their group findings, they will have had time to prepare and become comfortable with an answer. However, the responsibility and maturity levels of the tutors will be very important to consider when assigning partners. Many of the strategies that the book mentions will help the students with special needs as well as general education students. Strategies to activate prior knowledge, to engage the readers through story enhancements, and to teach writing techniques will improve the learning process for everyone.

good for you!

Teaching students with special needs in my classroom will be challenging, but I hope that with the help of the special education teacher, I will be able to meet their specific needs. Right now, in my

Yes!

high school placement, one of my biggest concerns is setting expectations that match the abilities of every student. I love literature, so I am really excited about teaching it, but how do I help students with learning disorders, who truly struggle with reading, do well in my class? I am also worried about making the appropriate accommodations and modifications while teaching over one hundred other students of varying abilities who are in my class every day. The whole process seems very intimidating at the moment.

#### Source

Mastropieri, M. and Scruggs, T. (2007). *The Inclusive Classroom. Third Edition*. New Jersey: Pearson Merrill Prentice Hall.

Stacey Morgan

Chapter Reflection

Importance of content (5 points)

5

excellent overview of your content's importance!  
education of American students

- 1 paragraph discussing importance of specific content area in overall education of American students

Connections (10 points)

9

- 3 specific connections with the content of text and experiences
- Page references

Special education in content (5 points)

5

- Summarize/comment on special education students in the content area/don't just retell the text; provide comments/reflection

Conclusion (5 points)

5

- Hopes, excitements, etc about teaching the content area with wide range of students in the classroom

24/25

Points will be deducted from final score if the following are not met:

A job well done 😊

Format/Grammar/Structure

- Typed, Times New Roman, 1" margins, 2 full pages
- Grammatically correct
- Structure of paragraphs and sentences reflect maturity in writing
- Overall essay is organized