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TEACHING READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES IN ENGLISH ACADEMIC CONTEXT

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Abstract: this article explores the role of teachers, technology, and learner-centered instruction in enhancing comprehension abilities. The article concludes that systematic instruction of reading strategies enables students to become independent, confident, and critical readers in academic environments.

Keywords: English language teaching, reading strategies, critical thinking, skimming, scanning, learner-centered instruction, academic literacy.

Introduction

Modern English language teaching emphasizes learner-centered instruction, where students actively participate in the reading process. Instead of passively receiving information, learners interact with texts through discussion, collaboration, and problem-solving activities.

Group discussions, peer teaching, and collaborative reading tasks increase motivation and comprehension because students learn from each other's perspectives.

Technology and Digital Reading: Technology has transformed reading practices in academic education. Digital platforms, e-books, online journals, and educational applications provide learners with access to a wide range of academic materials. Digital reading tools also offer interactive features such as dictionaries, annotations, highlighting, and audio support, which help learners understand difficult texts more effectively.

However, teachers should guide students in developing digital literacy skills to avoid distractions and improve critical evaluation of online information.

Challenges in Teaching Reading Comprehension: Despite the importance of reading strategies, learners may face several challenges in academic reading:

- **Limited vocabulary knowledge;**
- **Complex grammatical structures;**
- **Lack of background knowledge;**
- **Low motivation;**
- **Difficulty concentrating on long texts.**

Teachers should address these challenges by providing supportive learning environments, scaffolded instruction, and engaging reading materials suited to students' proficiency levels.

Reading comprehension is a reader's ability to understand the explicit and implicit meaning of a text, or piece of writing. It is appropriate to know that it moves beyond vocabulary knowledge and word recognition to add meaning. When students involve their reading comprehension skills, they're turning words into thoughts and ideas. It is important to note that reading is one of the most important ways students and adults learn new information. Research tells that reading

comprehension can also help struggling readers build enjoyment of reading and participate more fully in lessons.

And it's not just for the classroom, either — reading comprehension has real-life applications for readers of all ages. It can:

Equip readers to make good day-to-day decisions with available information

Give readers the ability to think critically about what they read online and in the news

Help readers decipher meaning in recipes, directions or other step-by-step instructions

Help students move past word recognition into understanding and remembering the text

Improving reading comprehension can help your students become successful readers in and out of the classroom for the rest of their lives.

Conclusion

Teachers play an important role in guiding learners through strategic reading practices and creating motivating learning environments. By integrating learner-centered approaches and digital technologies into reading instruction, educators can significantly enhance students' academic literacy and overall English language proficiency.

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