

Strategies That Work

Advancing Literacy and Math Achievement



From: Gene Bottoms

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North Carolina CTE Students Increase Reading Comprehension and Writing Skills



Atoniea Boykins, career management and Microsoft IT Academy teacher at East Rutherford High School in Bostic, North Carolina, is training in the strategies of the Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC). She finds that her students are learning more and becoming stronger writers as a result of working in collaborative groups.

Since beginning LDC training, she has noticed a difference in her own teaching style and how her students learn. She shares her experiences below:

Pulling Together the Pieces

LDC training has changed how I teach. I start each major assignment with an essential question. I never really understood scaffolding or building on students' prior knowledge. But I understand now that the essential question is what sparks students to think about the topic and answer the question in their own words.

LDC has helped me to pull together the pieces while assisting students with reading and writing skills. Annotation is now a big part of my classroom learning environment, and it helps students to read and extract important information. My students are more open to learning because they realize today's 21st-century workplace is an ever-learning environment.

Students Learn While Teaching Each Other

I give them a set of materials to read that helps them gather information on the essential question. Once they've read the materials, they meet in collaborative groups to share insights, with each taking notes about the others' understanding of the material. Students are learning from each other. Students reread the

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) provides middle grades schools and high schools in member states with intensive teacher training in leading-edge literacy and math strategies that enhance students' outcomes across all disciplines. The training is offered at no cost to qualifying schools or districts in member states except for Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee.*

Read on: Find out how your school and district will enhance students' creative thinking and problem-solving abilities while enhancing their reading and writing skills to meet state standards and succeed in school and life.

This week: Atoniea Boykins says her students are better at understanding complex readings and expressing their understanding in written documents.

Pass this information on to your peers: Schools, superintendents, math and literacy supervisors and teachers, contact us to share your successes!

No cost teacher training: We are offering training in your area now; contact us to register your teaching team.

* Training fees negotiated separately for direct contract states.

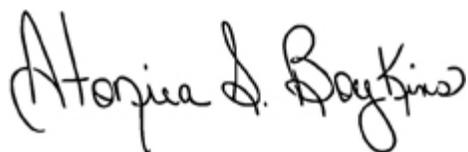
materials with deeper understanding, refine their notes and start outlining their papers.

Students are discovering the techniques of reading, writing and doing research while producing a written paper on a technical subject. Their ability to express their understanding of very complex materials in writing is far greater than I ever anticipated.

I really believe the quote from Benjamin Franklin:

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”

Students prefer to work in teams and in a hands-on environment. They are more energetic and learn more from each other. They not only learn the concept of teamwork, annotating, breaking up assignments and collaborating about the topic, but they understand that it is about learning. Good writing is needed in the workplace. But students must understand the technique of writing, and this is something that they are working on in the classroom.



FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT

Gene Bottoms

Senior Vice President

gene.bottoms@sreb.org

(404) 875-9211

Dan Mollette

Director of Training and Mathematics Lead

dan.mollete@sreb.org

(404) 962-9623

Daniel Rock

Lead Literacy Consultant

dan.rock@sreb.org

(404) 879-5527

Sample Assignment

After completing the assignment, students will understand the importance of formatting Microsoft Word documents for business uses.

- **Assignment:** After reading texts on formats and styles for formal business letters, write an essay that explains the impact certain formats and styles have on readers and why a writer might make specific choices for certain audiences. Use evidence from the text to support your claim.
- **Mini-task for annotation:** Teams annotate important information from texts and post it on flip charts using words and pictures. The team presents to the class.

SREB

High Schools
That Work