
Guidelines for Conducting Reading Inquiries

Team Tool 5.1 from *Leading for Literacy*

The following concrete suggestions can help teams organize inquiries into how they read — the reading processes they use, the confusions they encounter, and the role of collaboration in sorting them out.

1. Develop a clear set of goals and norms for your time together. Aim for a professional community that is safe and supportive, where it is “cool to be confused” by a hard text.
2. Continually ground your team’s work by exploring your own processes of reading texts in and across your varied disciplines. *Use texts that are challenging for you as adults* so that you can make your problem-solving processes visible.
3. Protect time for inquiry into your own close reading processes. It will be natural to slip into teacher mode, thinking immediately about the implications of your reading processes for teaching students. Structure your time together with routines for inquiry, followed only near the end of your meeting time for reflection and exchange of ideas about implications for practice.
4. Establish the procedural routines and roles (such as facilitator or timekeeper) that will keep you on track with your own goals and norms. You might assign group members turns at being responsible for finding and providing complex texts for group inquiries.
5. Consider conducting reading inquiries within *and* across disciplines and organize to do so.