

STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE READING

Reading experts view reading as a process of meaning construction. Readers use their prior knowledge together with clues from the text to construct meaning. Effective readers are strategic and use a repertoire of strategies and skills as they construct meaning from text. They have specific purposes for reading and are able to adjust their reading to each purpose and for each reading task.

This course foregrounds the strategies and skills that teachers can teach their learners to help them in becoming effective readers. Strategies that are intended to enable learners to activate their prior knowledge and to interact with the text are emphasized. Reading teachers are trained in the procedures for providing cognitive strategy instruction to their learners so as to assist them to become expert readers who can use literacy for lifelong learning and enjoyment.

Objectives

The objectives of this course are to:

- enable participants to reflect on the reading instruction that they provide their learners
- enhance participants' knowledge and skills related to providing cognitive strategy instruction to their learners
- enable participants to plan, implement and evaluate cognitive

strategy instruction lessons for their learners

Content

Topics covered include:

- Prior knowledge and its importance in effective reading
- Strategies to activate prior knowledge as well as to provide background knowledge to facilitate effective reading
- Cognitive strategy instruction and the direct instruction paradigm
- Procedures for providing direct instruction in a variety of reading strategies including QAR, INSERT, K-W-L, and Inferencing

Duration

5 days (40 hours)

Mode of delivery

The course uses a variety of instructional strategies including mini-lectures; small group activities; and micro-teaching sessions.

Participants

This course is intended for English teachers teaching at the lower secondary level.