

Questions for Ms. Rodriguez's class

1. The broad goals of reading are the same for all students. What is considered an additional goal for English Language learners?

1. That we build simultaneous writing skills.
2. That we build simultaneous oral language skills.
3. That students develop active listening skills.
4. That students are only allowed to work with the recommended reading text.

Correct answer is number 2 because the research has shown that students need to develop oral skills before they can become proficient in reading.

The other answers are all important and should be included in the language acquisition process, they will develop largely after the oral language skills that will require active listening skills.

2. In Ms. Rodriguez's class, what practice would benefit the ELL's the most in helping them to understand the memoir?

1. The interview of their parents
2. Identifying a common problem for discussion.
3. The use of a story map to explain the memoir.
4. Understanding how concepts can be enhanced by instruction.

After reviewing many studies on the subject, it seems that the experts agree that number 3 will present the material in an organized and visual graph helping to bring meaning to the Memoir. The other choices would be included in the pre reading process but will not necessarily help with the meaning of the memoir.

3. In Ms. Rodriguez's class students' understanding of new concepts can be enhanced through instruction that

1. uses routines and embeds redundancy in lessons.
2. Provides explicit discussion of vocabulary and structure.
3. Teaching students metacognitive skills.
4. Using a balanced approach of all these methods.

In this case the correct answer is number 4 which is an amalgam of all of the requisite skills needed to understand new concepts. Each is correct in their own right but the blend of all four is what's needed.

4. One of the most effective strategies you would offer to Ms. Rodriguez to instruct her students of mixed ability levels on the memoir would be:

1. Use exemplars of memoirs before introducing the story.
2. Have the students begin by writing daily journals.
3. Differentiate the instruction so that ELL students have opportunities to practice, and more advanced students can be challenged.
4. Modeling the process step by step, giving students opportunities to practice.

The correct answer would be number 3 because differentiation will include many of these tried and true strategies. Students have to work at their own level to better understand the topic.