

The Four Lenses of Learning Summary

Learning as Meaning-Making

Making sense of a text is the primary goal of reading. Readers transact with the text to construct meaning which is strengthened through the reading, writing, talking process. The reader's prior knowledge plays an important role. Readers need to actively relate the new to the known to make connections to the reading at hand. Each person brings a unique understanding of text based on his/her prior knowledge and experience.

Learning as Social

We make meaning in collaboration with others and language is created through social activity. Students need to learn how to take turns at speaking, how to interact with peers and how to be part of a community of learners. Collaborative reading and talking about texts provide students an opportunity to expand their own knowledge.

Learning as Language- Based

Students learn language best when they use it purposely and meaningfully and not in isolation such as workbook exercises, for example. Oral and written language should be related and integrated, and experimentation with a wide variety of written text is essential to learning.

Learning as Human

Students should be encouraged to develop their own styles of reading and writing. Different views should be honored and encouraged and the classroom should be a place where it is safe to take intellectual risks.