

Innovation Area

Curriculum Issues

**Ideas contributed by graduates of the
Urban Teacher Corps
through the
Polk Bros. Foundation Innovation Network.**

Challenge:

Learning and understanding logic and logical reasoning.

Idea:

Read classical literature based on the foundations of logic and reasoning such as Euclid.

Using multiple examples, chart step-by-step logic and reasoning in math and thought.

Application:

Study cause-and-effect relationships. Logically chart how the cause led to the effect.

How to connect teachers with this idea:

Sit, discuss, and debate best practices on the teaching of logic across all disciplines.

Challenge:

Getting children more familiar with the things that happen in the world around them.

Get them to see past their neighborhoods.

Idea:

Have every class choose a group of students write a short article based on information that they read in a newspaper or magazine. Have the students choose from different topics such as politics, sports, crime, private sector and other areas. The group of students should each choose a different topic to write their article on. The students should also choose their own title and do a small illustration when applicable. The articles should be posted on a newly created “current world” bulletin board outside in the hall.

Application:

This should change every week, so the news is current.

How to connect teachers with this idea.

Sit, discuss, and debate best practices on the teaching of logic across all disciplines.

Visually, this idea will help other teachers.

Contributing Educator:

Keith Hoffman, Nobel Elementary

Challenge:

Building students' reading comprehension.

Idea:

Expose children to good literature.
More practice in reading silently.
Use different genre.
Make reading enjoyable.
Book-It Program.
Assign more reading homework.
Have students to do book reports.

Application:

One developmental approach is to expose students to more than just their reading textbook – newspapers, magazines, articles, poetry, etc.

How to connect teachers with this idea:

Ask teachers to brainstorm on other types of print materials that students could read and discuss.
Have teachers develop lessons on how to improve comprehension in this area.

Contributing Educator

Caroline Cruz. Muñoz Marin Primary School

Challenge:

Students reading far below grade level.

Idea:

In addition to after-school programs like Lighthouse, interested teachers may identify the students in their own classroom who are far below grade level and begin an early morning reading group 1 or 2 days a week.

Application:

Select 1 or 2 days during the week from 8:00-8:30 to work on improving reading skills.

How to teachers with this idea:

Speak about the ideas at a teacher in-service.

Contributing Educator

Sala McClinton, Monroe Elementary