



Reading Training #8: Fluency and Speed

Starting the Conversation

- What does reading fluency and speed mean?
- What reading strategies can you use to increase your reading fluency and speed?

Thinking About Reading Fluency

Put a check in front of the statement if you agree:

- ___ Students with high reading fluency can read a paragraph in 30 seconds or less.
- ___ Reading fluency depends on how accurately you read a text, no matter how long it takes you.
- ___ Students with high reading fluency can recall exact details of a text.
- ___ Reading fluency is being able to read quickly, accurately, and with expression.
- ___ Students with low reading fluency can read a text and not be able to recall the main points.

READING FLUENCY:

Reading fluency is the ability to read through a text quickly while effectively gaining understanding of the content. Students with low reading fluency have a struggle reading due to lack of vocabulary, little background knowledge, problems understanding academic language, or the use of bad reading strategies. (Tompkins, 2014)

Reading Fluency for You

- Given the definition of reading fluency, what strategies would you use to improve reading fluency in your academic discipline?
- Why are those strategies effective?
- Can those reading strategies transfer to academic material in other disciplines?

Understanding Reading Speed

Put a check in front of the statement if you agree:

- Being a fast reader does not mean you are a good reader.
- Students that read fast are better readers than students that read slow.
- Getting through a text too quickly probably means you missed the main points.
- Students who read too quickly have to reread in order to understand small details.
- Skimming is better than scanning no matter the goal of the reading.

READING SPEED:

Reading speed refers to how quickly you can read a text. Having a fast reading speed does not mean that you understand every word you read, but you could understand the main ideas of a text. In an academic environment where you have a high quantity of reading, developing a high reading speed is essential.

Reading Speed for You

- Given the definition of reading speed, what strategies would you use to improve reading speed in your academic discipline?
- Why are those strategies effective?
- Can those reading strategies transfer to academic material in other disciplines?

Fluency and Speed

- Reading fluency and speed are related. When working with extensive amounts of texts, it is important that you select the best strategies to cover all of the readings and prepare for class discussions and tests.
- Skimming, Scanning, and Sampling are three strategies that can help you increase your reading fluency and speed.

Skimming, Scanning, & Sampling

- Skimming: moving your eyes across the text while reading every other word, every other sentence, and skipping parts that do not fit the purpose of your reading
- Scanning: looking for a particular word, phrase, or source of information without having to read the entire text
- Sampling: read a brief part of every paragraph or section (normally the first sentence in a paragraph) to understand what the text is about

In the following scenarios, which reading strategy(ies) would you use: skimming, scanning, or sampling?

1. Looking for the use of a word in a text
2. Understanding the main idea of a paragraph
3. Looking for the name of a famous researcher and his contributions
4. Understanding the theme of a story
5. Reading 10 pages of text for a class discussion
6. Understanding what a section of a paper is about
7. Finding the appropriate use of a new term presented in class
8. Reading to prepare for a class lecture
9. Reading to prepare for a test

(1) scanning; (2) sampling; (3) scanning; (4) skimming; (5) skimming/sampling; (6) sampling; (7) scanning; (8) skimming; (9) skimming/sampling

Considering Fluency and Speed

- What are the connections between reading fluency and reading speed?
- How can you use skimming, scanning, and sampling to improve your reading speed and reading fluency?
- What will help you decide if it is best to skim, scan, or sample a text? When is each method most effective?
- How does improving reading fluency and speed help students stay motivated when reading?



What's Next?

We have learned many things about reading fluency and speed.

Next up, we will learn how to use a variety of strategies when preparing for a test!

References

- Miller, S. (2004). *Literacy Handbook* (Unpublished handbook). University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI.
- Tompkins, G. E. (2014). *Literacy for the 21st century: A balanced approach* (6th ed.). New York City, NY: Pearson Education, Inc.