Why teach literacy? Ponder the purpose of literacy that surpasses “basic skills”.

- Teacher vision & enactment

“Visionary decision maker” (Gambrell, Malloy, & Mazzoni, 2011)

“Roser (2001) offered us a challenge to consider which activities are cute and which ones count. To decide which ones count, we need to consider why we ask readers to complete these activities, what their instructional purpose is, and what they actually do for our readers” (Serafini, 2011/2012, p. 240).

Instruction vs. Activities; Instruction vs. Skill & Drill (aka Test prep)

Task Research


Research-based literacy practices for teaching reading:

Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary, Fluency, & Comprehension

Research-based literacy practices for teaching writing:

Content Areas, Writing Workshops, & Explicit modeling through mini-lessons

Literacy and the Common Core & Essential Standards
Rubric for the Student-Centeredness of a Task

Describe the task and its product:

**Authenticity** (adapted from Duke et al., 2006/7)

1 – The task is limited to tasks that are completed primarily in school.

2 – The task mimics outside-of-school tasks, but still has features of school-based activities.

3 – The task closely replicates tasks completed in people’s day-to-day lives outside of school.

**Collaboration** (adapted from Miller & Meece, 1999)

1 – Students work alone on the task.

2 – Students collaborate minimally in the task.

3 – Students collaborate throughout the task.

**Challenge** (adapted from Miller & Meece, 1999)

1 – The task requires letter- or word-level reading or writing.

2 – The task requires sentence-level reading or writing.

3 – The task requires paragraph-level reading or writing.

**Student Directed** (adapted from Thornburg, 2005)

1 – The students have no input on the task.

2 – The students have input, but the choices have minimal influence on the task.

3 – Students have input into many substantial aspects of the task.

**Sustained** (adapted from Miller & Meece, 1999)

1 – The task takes place within one sitting.

2 – The task takes place within one or two day.

3 – The task spans over three or more days.

Type of text: Narrative Expository