



Viewing Guide

Teaching Beginning Readers Using the Language Experience Approach (LEA)

BEFORE YOU VIEW: Here are some key questions and ideas you may want to think about and/or discuss with a colleague or mentor.

- What are some different ways to teach beginning readers?
- Can a beginning reader learn to read without first learning letter names and sounds?



WHILE YOU VIEW: As you view the video look for answers to the following questions.

1. Rationale for LEA
 - a. What I can think about, I can _____ about. What I can talk about, I can _____ about or have others write for me. What I can write, I can _____.
2. Steps involved in LEA
 - a. Talk to the student and choose a _____ that the student uses and which seems to be important to him.
 - b. Type or print the key sentence on a card or envelope. Read the sentence several times and then ask the student to read the sentence.
 - c. Type or print the sentence on a 3x5 card and cut the words apart. Match and say each word.
 - d. Continue to mix up the words and allow the student to practice _____ and reading the words. You may want to take away the sentence card or envelope.
 - e. Ask the student to draw a _____ that illustrates his sentence. If the student forgets the sentence the picture may help the student with recall.
3. Advantages of using LEA
 - a. LEA centers on the unique _____ and _____ experiences that are meaningful to the learner.
 - b. LEA involves the four primary avenues of language: _____, _____, _____, and _____.
 - c. LEA capitalizes on the personal worth of students by enhancing their self-concept.

Answer Key:

1. a. talk, write, read
2. a. key sentence d. matching e. picture
3. a. knowledge, personal b. reading, writing, listening, speaking

LEA is a meaning-centered approach that focuses on the student's own ideas and interests. For the beginning reader, LEA is motivational, non-threatening and it works!

AFTER YOU VIEW: Answer these questions. Whenever possible, discuss your answers with a colleague or mentor.

1. What are the strengths of the Language Experience Approach?

2. What are some limitations and problems to consider when using this approach?

3. How could LEA be used with a group?

4. How does LEA differ from other methods of teaching beginning readers?

5. How would you correct grammar and dialectal mistakes?

6. How would you adapt what has been presented in this video to improve instruction?

ACTION PLAN: Develop a plan for implementing ideas from this video.

1. What are you going to do? (Objective)
2. How?
3. What steps will you take to make this happen?
4. What problems do you anticipate? How could the problems be solved?
5. What resources will you need? (Include mentor/coach, materials, etc.)
6. Develop a timeline for implementing your plan.
7. How will you evaluate your success?