

The Benefits of Write-In Textbooks

A New England primer. A McGuffey reader. A "Dick and Jane" reader. These titles conjure up images of early textbooks with pages and pages of text. These books reflect a different time in our education history. So many practices and theories in our education system have

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Research supports a change from a read-only, read-about it book, to a more interactive format—one where students actually interact with the content. A format where they are able to highlight key concepts, write image captions to summarize key points, underline vocabulary words and their definitions, answer questions, ask questions, and write notes or draw diagrams to summarize a concepts.

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References

Some of the citations listed were reviewed but not cited specifically in the White Paper.

Armbruster, B.B., & Anderson, T.H. (1988). On selecting "considerate" content area textbooks. *Remedial and Special Education*, *9*(1), 47–52.

Baker, W.P., Barstack, R., Clark, D., Hull, E., Goodman, B., Kook, J., Kraft, K., Ramakrishna, P., Roberts, E., Shaw, J., Weaver, D., & Lang, M. (2008). Writing-to-learn in the inquiry-science classroom: Effective strategies from middle school science and writing teachers. Clearing House: A Journal of Educational Strategies, Issues and Ideas, 81, 105-108.

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