



Narration: A Classical Guide with Jason Barney

Lecture 6: Steps to Implementing Narration in the Classroom

Outline:

Steps to Implementing Narration in the Classroom

- **Step 1: The Roll Out Speech**
 - How to set up your students for success and share with them to value of narration.
 - Share the new practice with your students. We are leading souls in the classroom. Good leadership involves good communication. Help students buy in to what you are doing in the classroom.
 - **Four elements of a good roll out:**
 - **Explanation:**
 - Distinguish between a summary and a narration.
 - Narration is telling in full detail all that you can remember about a topic. It is ok to have pauses and recall all that you have. Be ready for silence. It often means students are thinking.
 - **Descriptions:**
 - Describe how narration will help them learn.
 - Refer to modern learning science (neurons fire together and wire together).
 - Just rereading material again and again is not as effective as narration.
 - Tell your students that it is your job to help them learn.
 - **Expectations:**
 - Make clear that you expect them to do their best.
 - Ask them to attend well and give a full effort when called on.
 - Have a culture of 100% participation.
 - **Tips and Tricks:**
 - Some students will try to memorize up topics, words, and phrases. They are engaging the analytical part of the brain. Encourage them to try to picture or imagine the text as fully as possible. The process of narrating helps seal that knowledge in.



- Tell the student to just start at the beginning. Ask yourself, “What’s next?”
- **How will you ask students to narrate?**
 - Call on students whether or not they raise their hands.
 - Use a randomization strategy to decide who to call upon. Possibly have two cards for each student. Lift up the expectations of students to be accountable.
 - Students may deal with some anxiety, especially when you do something new. Balance high accountability with high support for the individual student who is right there. Some students need some time. Encourage the student to give them anything they can.
 - Cultivate the sense that every student must be attending well and be ready to tell.
- **Varieties of narration**
 - **String Narration**
 - This works best with longer literary texts.
 - One student picks up where another student left off.
 - This holds multiple students accountable.
 - There is an assimilation process happening when you listen to another student narrating.
 - **Partner or Group Narration**
 - Have one person share and one person add or correct.
 - This takes participation ratio up.
 - Sometimes in partner narration, students will lower their effort a little bit. Circulate around the room while students are staying on task and doing their best.
 - **Written Narration**
 - This is the highest participation ration.
 - Younger students haven’t mastered putting thoughts from head to hand to paper.
 - When they have fluency in writing then narration will help them develop the skill of thinking and writing at the same time.
 - This kind of long form response naturally develops into essay writing, where students structure arguments and pull from various different passages in one response to an essay question.
- **Additions and corrections to improve student’s narrations**
 - Especially in the beginning, have other students add or correct the student’s narration.
 - What until the students finish.
 - Create a culture of patient and attentive listening.
 - Assume there are additions and corrections.
 - This should be done kindly and with courtesy.
 - This helps other students love learning. It encourages a culture of appreciation of the rich content in front of them.
 - Don’t skip it too often