
About this book

Strategies to Engage the Mind of the Learner is organized into seven chapters. While Chapter 3 explains with examples ninety strategies, it is my hope that you will take time to read and reflect upon information in the other chapters. Chapter 1 explains the rationale for using strategies to engage the mind of the learner. Chapter 2 outlines eight principles of learning and the role strategies play in a learning-focused classroom. Chapter 4 emphasizes the importance of teaching strategies to students. Chapter 5 focuses on the importance of students reflecting on the benefits of using strategies. If we want students to view strategies as helpful learning tools versus “one more ditto” or “busy work,” it is important students analyze how the strategy enhanced their learning and when they will use it again. Without reflection students will not be able to transfer the skills acquired through strategy use into other learning situations.

You will notice in your reading and study that I have used a variety of formats to showcase various strategies. My goal was to be thorough and explicit but not state the obvious or become redundant in my explanations.

You are also provided icons intended to focus your attention on various portions of the text.



The most frequently observed icon is the text icon. The icon alerts you to prepare yourself for reading.



Another frequently used icon is the “notes” icon. It directs you to spaces where notes might be written.



At various junctures in your learning you will be challenged to reflect on your reading either alone or with a colleague—orally or in writing. The yin-yang icon denotes an opportunity for reflection.



The open text icon provides you with a brief overview of the section. This overview provides a type of anticipatory set, prompting you to connect with your prior knowledge.



Strategies and Process activities are found throughout the text. The synergy icon depicts an opportunity to process information—usually with one or more colleagues.



As stated earlier in the book, the purchaser of the text has permission to reproduce specific pages for classroom use. Those pages are denoted by the blackline master icon.

I hope this information is complementary to your style. Enjoy your learning. RB