


## Stimulating Higher Level Thinking Through Physical Education



**ELON**  
UNIVERSITY

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### Stimulating Higher Level Thinking Through Physical Education


1. The problem
2. Present key research regarding literacy promotion
3. Application of theory to the k-12 physical education classroom
4. Promoting literacy and higher-level thinking in undergraduate methods courses
5. Discussion

### 1. The Problem

- Physical Education
- Health-Related Fitness
- "The Obesity Epidemic"

VS

- High Stakes "End of Grade" Testing
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills
- Reading Skills




### Who Wins?

Physical Education

- Alamance – Burlington School System
- Literacy First  
All K-5<sup>th</sup> students first 3 hours of every school day

The School District

- Power




### Who Wins?

Physical Education

- Alamance – Burlington School System
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The School District

- \$
- No Principal Tenure - contracts based on test scores
- Power



### 2. Key Research Regarding Literacy Promotion

- "Literacy"
  - Higher order thinking skills
  - Not only reading skills

*...This new perspective does not consist of old ideas with a new name, but rather it represents a profound shift from a text-driven definition of literacy to a view of literacy as active transformation of texts. In the old view, meaning was assumed to reside primarily within text, whereas, in the new view, meaning is created through an interaction of reader and text. (p. 1)*

Hiebert (1991)

- "Alternative texts" key element of this concept as this definition evolves

## 2. Key Research Regarding Literacy Promotion

Fisher, Frey & Williams, 2002

A total school approach to improve student literacy. Seven Strategies

Marlette & Gordon, 2004

- Prepare teacher candidates to view Physical Education as a "thinking subject"
- Move away from "command" style teaching to allow a more meaningful interaction with the subject

Ballinger and Deeney, 2006

"...Capitalize on literacy teaching and learning in every environment possible and use a variety of texts..."

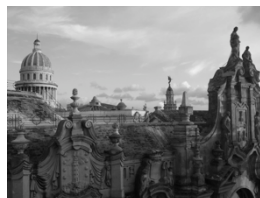
McCormack & Pasquarelli, 2010

- Creating a literary rich classroom
- Use of children's texts

United Kingdom Dept. for Education and Skills, (2004)

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## Literacy in Physical Education



## 3. Applying Research Regarding Literacy Promotion to the Physical Education Classroom

Fisher, Frey & Williams, 2002

A total school approach to improve student literacy. Seven Strategies

### 1. Read aloud

- School paper, web site, story, book, magazine.... As attention grabber or at closure

### 2. K-W-L Charts (What do you Know? What do you Want to know? What have you Learned?)

- Ticket out the door, Think, pair, share at closure, mid point in lesson especially when learning rules or strategies....

### 3. Graphic Organizers (relationships between words)

- White board, cards and jump ropes, poster board, flip chart, cards on students shirts...holding hands or standing near another word....

## 3. Applying Research Regarding Literacy Promotion to the Physical Education Classroom

Fisher, Frey & Williams, 2002

### 4. Vocabulary

- Stress attainment of new words, test, word walls, etc...

### 5. Write to learn (think for a minute, write for 5 minutes- with teacher prompt)

- Student physical education notebooks

### 6. Structured note taking

- Ex. Main ideas & key words/details/summary at the bottom of the page

### 7. Reciprocal teaching

- Groups of 4, follow a format: read text together, predict, questioning, clarifying and summarizing

## 3. Applying Research Regarding Literacy Promotion to the Physical Education Classroom

Marlette & Gordon, 2004: "thinking subject" less "command" style

1. Task Style: "Jump", "twist", "skip" words on task cards at stations. Afterward use these words in a poem
2. Alphabet dribbling (el), blood flow through body (sec)
3. Students create own dictionaries
4. Assign homework stressing 3 realms: physical, mental and affective
  - Read rules of a sport
  - Complete a worksheet on rules
  - Attend a game note +/- sporting behavior, Implications of findings, game w/o rules?
5. Outdoor Education – students discuss the "language of the wilderness"

## 3. Applying Research Regarding Literacy Promotion to the Physical Education Classroom

Marlette & Gordon, 2004: "thinking subject" less "command" style

1. Cooperative games, sport education, teaching games for understanding, movement education, etc...
2. Creative projects
  - Exercise video (ex. Crossfit WOD, introduce a new sport or activity technique or strategy, etc...)
  - Research project with introduction to a new sport or activity including history, rules, video of activity, interview, equipment....
3. Analysis and Interdisciplinary infusion
  - Visual images: Greek sculptures and Athenian civilization
  - Body types/image: Perception of body, write your personal philosophy of wellness and physical activity



## Activity Time!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



## The BLOCK Schedule



### 3. Applying Research Regarding Literacy Promotion to the Physical Education Classroom

Ballinger and Deeney, 2006: " literacy teaching/learning in every environment; use a variety of texts...."

#### 1. Journals

- Affective personal/social growth, fitness goals and logs, sport goals and logs/stats, etc...

#### 2. Sports and Rec spotlight

- Include recreation with sport/fitness texts

#### 3. PE Newsletter/web site

- Alerting parents to class content, encourage involvement

#### 4. Student research and trusted web and/or ap incorporation

#### 5. Coordinate with other teachers/subjects

- Interdisciplinary units

### 3. Applying Research Regarding Literacy Promotion to the Physical Education Classroom

McCormack & Pasquarelli, 2010: Literary rich classrooms, Use of children's texts

#### 1. Literary rich classroom

- Post signs. Have paper/board available so you can write during instruction, Use cones with slits/tape for task info, locker room signs, extra credit assignments in written form, word wall, task cards, student written work on the wall....

#### 2. Library:

- Ask your librarian for recommendations
- Offer book purchasing suggestions and magazine subscriptions

### 3. Applying Research Regarding Literacy Promotion to the Physical Education Classroom

United Kingdom Dept. for Education and Skills, (2004): Learning through talk text and writing; Monitor and assess student work/products; Interdisciplinary collaboration

#### 1.

- Students assign metaphor to movement/skill, students can summarize and identify a key attribute of a skill/activity, students can verbally describe and compare movement/strategy/skill/etc...

#### 2.

- Walk across Michigan (math, history, social studies); write a essay, poem, instructions on a skill you used in PE, Activity cards – student group interprets and then completes the activity, Your ideas?

### Stimulating Higher Level Thinking Through Physical Education

#### 1. ~~The problem~~

#### 2. ~~Present key research regarding literacy promotion~~

#### 3. ~~Application of theory to the k-12 physical education classroom~~

#### 4.

in undergraduate methods courses

#### 5.


4. Promoting literacy and higher-level thinking in undergraduate methods courses

Make literacy promotion a course goal:  
Assignments, templates, assessment, practicum

A. Assignments:


- A. Lesson Plan Ideas that cross disciplines
- B. Anticipatory Set/Intro – Address WHY?

Include cues, and instruction that ask student questions and assign metaphors




4. Promoting literacy and higher-level thinking in undergraduate methods courses

1. Assignments
  - Bulletin Boards rich in literacy promotion
2. Relinquish management and assessment duties
  - self assessment, peer assessment, journals, logs, software application, student readings, research
3. Practice teaching
  - Questioning skills and Student feedback



4. Promoting literacy and higher-level thinking in undergraduate methods courses

- Practicum
  - Find a cooperating teacher who is a role model for literacy development in physical education
  - Video analysis assignment
    - Stress literacy development Strategies – 3 evident in teaching/ lesson



Discussion and Questions?

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