Experience Stories

A Strategy for Reading and Writing Practice for Low-Level Learners
Agenda

• What is the Language Experience Approach (LEA)?
• Why should I use it? What are the benefits?
• How does it work? What is the process?
• An example of LEA in action.
• Extension activities using student stories.
• Story starter ideas.
What is the Language Experience Approach (LEA)?

- The central principle of the Language Experience Approach is to use a student’s own vocabulary, language patterns, and experiences to create reading texts to make reading an especially meaningful and enjoyable process.

- It is an approach to reading instruction based on activities and stories developed from personal experiences of the learner.
What are Some Benefits of this Strategy?

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- LEA provides reading material that is predictable and readable because it uses the learner’s natural language.
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- We show students that their personal experiences and life skills are valuable and interesting.
- We put students in the center of the learning activity.
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3. Read the story back to the student. Ask if the student wants to make any changes. Then practice reading the passage together until the student can read it alone.
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4. Use words from the student’s story to generate word study activities.

From LITSTART Handbook
Questions/Comments?
Extension Activities

- In the video, the tutor used words from the story in several follow-up activities.
- What do you remember about these extension exercises?
Extension Activities

- Identify and make flash cards with focus/sight words from the story.
- Match flash cards to words in the story.
- Make a list of opposites. For example, beautiful/ugly.
- Phonics. The tutor used “s” and asked the student to find other words in the story that began with the same sound.
Extension Activities

- With a partner, discuss and jot down your ideas for how you could use a student’s story as the basis for other word study activities.
Extension Activities

- Identify words that have the same short/long vowel or begin with the same sound.

- Make a list of words that rhyme with one of the words from the story.

- Type the story and then cut it into strips. Have the student put the story in order.

- Type the story but inset blanks where the focus words should be. Have the student use the flash cards to complete the text. (Cloze or fill-in the blank exercise.)
Story Starters

- With a partner, discuss and jot down some ideas for experiences or topics that your student might want to make a story about.
Story Starter Ideas

- Family members
- Pets
- Shopping
- Favorite foods/cooking
- Favorite season
- Sports
- Job
- Chores around the house
- Hobbies or leisure time
- Housing / neighbors
- Experiences:
  - Look at displays in the Jefferson School
  - Coffee at McDonalds
  - Staples / CVS
  - Downtown Mall
  - Library
Final Questions/Comments
Thank you