

Helping Students Read Difficult Texts:  
The Reading-Writing Connection  
Adapted from John Bean, *Engaging Ideas*

**Group Question:** What evidence do you see related to students' reading difficulties?

**Some Causes of Students' Reading Difficulties**

Which difficulties do you believe are most prominent among your students?

**Teachers Respond: What Can We Do?**

Which of the suggested strategies can you imagine yourself implementing in your class?

- Building a Course That Requires and Rewards Deep Reading
- Help Students See Why Texts Are Difficult
- Explain Your Own Reading and Note-Taking Processes
- Help Students Get the Dictionary Habit
- Teach "What It Says" and "What It Does"
- Show Students the Importance of an Author's Bias and Cultural Codes
- Teach Students the "Believing and Doubting Game" (Peter Elbow)

**What Can Our Students Do?**

How might you incorporate these suggested assignments?

Marginal Notes

Reading Logs

Summary and Response Double-Entry Notebooks

Graphic Organizers

Writing "Translations"