



EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING

Popcorn Read Protocol

Purpose: A popcorn read helps a group determine importance and synthesize their understanding of a text.

1. Select a piece of text, short or longer, fiction or non-fiction. Consider your purpose when choosing your text. Have participants highlight information that stands out to them in the text. (You may want to give them the criteria first, so they know what length of phrase they're looking for).
2. Post and discuss the criteria for a good spirit read ahead of time:
 - Read short phrases or words only (not sentences)
 - Give no commentary or opinions
 - Try to connect with what was just read (listen carefully to others)
 - Give all voices a chance
 - Pauses can be powerful
 - Repeating phrases is okay (shows where a group collectively agrees)
3. Have the group in a circle. One person starts the group off by reading a word or phrase; the other participants search for a phrase they've underlined that matches or connects in some way with the phrase just heard. This process continues until there are no more phrases people want to share aloud (until there are no more "kernels left to pop").
4. Debrief afterward:
 - How did underlining key points help participants better understand the text?
 - How did it help to hear what others read aloud?
 - What was it like to try to connect words and phrases?