

DC Academic Coach: Tips, Strategies, and notes for Reading Groups

- Printed packets are delivered to the classroom for volunteers and students for all Team Reads programs.
 - Volunteers do not need to bring printed packets from home.
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- Assigned groups are 3-4 students with a DC Academic Coach (volunteer)- Program Leaders work with the coach to determine groups each fall.
 - Reading groups may be adjusted after sports season attrition/JV additions/new team additions.
 - Reading packets are typically 3 articles with some vocab and discussion questions at the end.
 - DO NOT feel pressure to finish packets. Some groups are so happy discussing the 1st article, they don't get through others.
 - Some volunteers like to jot down names on their packets - helps them remember reading ability for subsequent sessions.
 - You can canvas students to see what article that would like to start with. If you think one article is more important, you can set that as the start.
 - Ask students if they know anything about the story based on the title or byline.
 - Students 'popcorn' read - each one taking 3-4 paragraphs before the next reader picks up and starts.
 - You can moderate the switch in readers if needed.
 - If a student doesn't feel comfortable reading aloud - he/she can pass (our kids are typically very supportive of their peers)
 - If your group is 1-2 students due to some absences and they tire of reading, feel free to join in as a reader or encourage some silent reading. Be flexible.
 - Pause the reading on occasion to check for understanding or to discuss context/vocab.
 - The discussion questions are a basic guide - feel free to use your own.
 - Rapport and building trust is the top goal - if we build some critical thinking along the way - bravo!
 - The kids LOVE praise!
 - Check to see if students need any subject help from DC - relay to your Program leader if student makes a request.
 - Students are encouraged to take packets home if interested in any unread material.
 - PROGRAMS DO NOT MEET ON PUBLIC SCHOOL HOLIDAYS/VACATIONS/GAME DAY – Program Leaders will relay info as needed.