

Why Some Students May Be Disenfranchised from Expository Textbooks

1. Textbooks are age/grade specific and time bound.
2. Textbooks are written in the formal register of language.
3. Textbook vocabulary may be unfamiliar to the students.
4. The material may be culturally irrelevant to the student's life, thus they can't identify with the text.
5. Textbook material may be uninteresting/non-engaging.
6. Textbooks use expository writing rather than narrative writing. Struggling students often find the format of expository text a more difficult than narrative text.
7. Textbook teaching ("talking head") may not reflect how a student learns best.
8. There is only one avenue for students to negotiate the text ("running their eyes over words").
9. Many students are academically below grade level and unable to read the textbooks.
10. Many students are English language learners (ELL).
11. The difficulty of the text discourages students, thus creating unmotivated learners.
12. Students disenfranchised from textbook learning are often socially embarrassed with their peers.