

Making Metacognitive Logs Count

When teachers have large numbers of students, the prospect of grading metacognitive logs is daunting. Experienced Reading Apprenticeship teachers have learned that structuring ways for students to *need* their logs to participate in class is the most important strategy for ensuring that students maintain their logs. Periodically collecting and spot-checking log entries is then usually enough.

Will Brown's high school chemistry students keep double-entry metacognitive logs, and he makes sure they understand what is expected, with his detailed explanation shown here.

REFLECTIVE READING LOGS AND EVALUATION RUBRIC

Throughout the year you will be asked to record notes and reflections from assigned reading using a T-table format. You will be expected to select essential information from each part of the assigned reading including text, figures, equations, and sample problems. You'll record these ideas in the left column of the t-table. With each entry, write the page number in parentheses. You are also expected to think reflectively about the text and relate the essential information to your own experiences, prior knowledge, your personal learning process and questions. You will record your reflections in the right column of the T-table. The template for making your own T-tables is on the back. Reading logs are part of your homework grade. keep all your reading logs in your chemistry binder. They are great study tools.



When I grade reflective reading logs, I look for the presence of a selection of essential ideas in the left column with page references and corresponding thoughtful reflections in the right column. I do not grade grammar or spelling, but you should work hard to make your ideas easy to understand.



I also use the reading logs' reflections as an indicator of topics requiring more in-class clarification.

Reflective reading is a personal activity. We all have unique experiences and thinking processes. So you do not share or borrow reading logs until you have completed your own reading log. In class you will have opportunities to share your thoughts and ask questions recorded in your reading logs.

The following are descriptions of the minimum criteria for each grade.

Nobel Laureate 100%	Research Scientist 90%	Lab Technician 80%	Trainee 40%
Reading log is completed on time. The left column contains plentiful essential information from each section of the text. Correct page numbers accompany each entry. The right column contains reflections for each entry that clearly show thoughtful reading.	Reading log is completed on time. The left column contains most essential information from each section of the text. Correct page numbers accompany most entries. The right column contains reflections for most entries that show thoughtful reading.	Reading Log is turned in late. The left column contains some essential information from each section of the text. Correct page numbers accompany some entries. The right column contains reflections for some entries that show thoughtful reading.	Reading Log is turned in late. The left column contains little essential information from each section of the text. Correct page numbers accompany few or no entries. The right column contains reflections for few entries that show thoughtful reading.
Upgrades Students earning <i>Trainee</i> on a reading log are invited to redo reading log to meet <i>Research Scientist</i> content criteria for an upgrade to <i>Lab Technician</i> .		No Credit = 0% There are three ways to receive no credit. (1) Do not do the reading log. (2) Do not turn in your reading log. (3) Copy another student's reading log entries and turn them in as your own.	
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