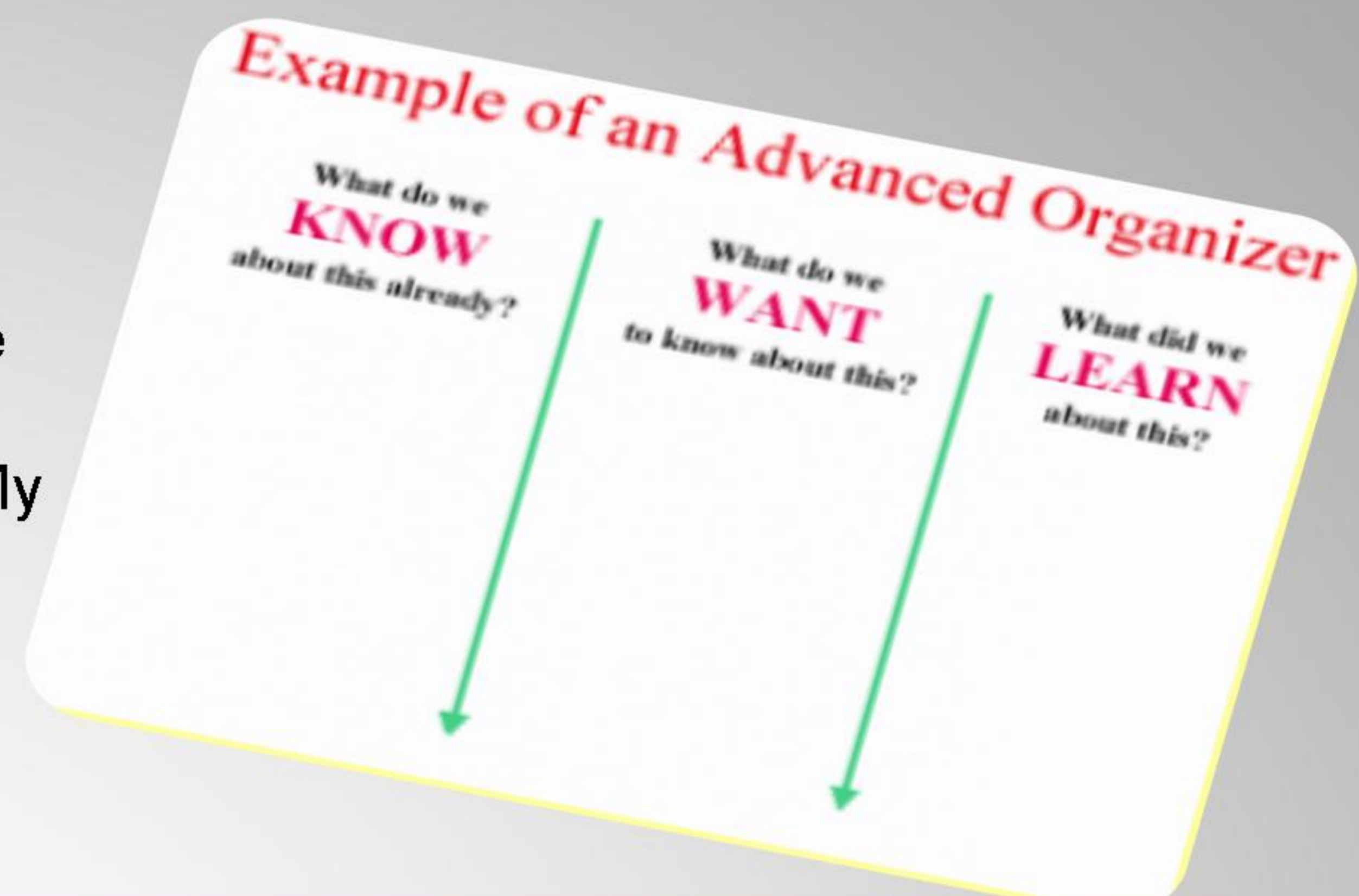




• My question was developed while taking Reading 320 – a course designed to incorporate reading and reading comprehension strategies into the content area classroom. I desired to know which strategies were regularly implemented in the middle-level classroom and which strategies were used by adults.

• I chose to interview six middle-level students, two high school graduates (class of 1984 and 2010), and a 61-year-old woman who only reached the eighth grade. They were to answer ten questions about their reading habits and strategies that they actively use on their own.

• Based on my research, I determined that if teachers would have given students the option to *choose* what they read, they would create generations of readers versus a population of people who detest to read and find it to be more of a necessary evil. My hypothesis seemed to be confirmed when the interviews revealed that the person with the least amount of formal education, was actual the person who enjoyed reading. The irony here is that one of the goals of teachers is to teach a love of reading. However, “force-feeding” literature (as I like to call it) is not the way to accomplish this.



Reflections on Various Interviews about Reading and Reading Comprehension

“If teachers would have given students the option to *choose* what they read, they would create generations of readers...”

• This applies to my field of study for obvious reasons. Reading and reading comprehension are not only to be explicitly taught by ELA teachers – it is the responsibility of *all* teachers. While I plan on teaching mathematics, I believe that reading should have its place in my classroom. Understanding how students read and comprehend will ultimately improve the classroom environment and allow me to teach more effectively. Furthermore, the element of choice allows students to have a sense of ownership of their education and therefore motivates them to learn.

STUDENT: Kayla King ADVISOR: Ms. Adrian Decker

Sample Interviews

Name: Spylar Beach
Age: 13
Grade: 7th

Reading 320 Honors Project Interview Questions

- How much time do you spend reading for pleasure per week?
It depends on how much I have to read for school.
- How much time do you spend reading required materials (work, school, etc.)?
Somehow I find time to read.
- What is your favorite kind of book to read (genre, etc.)?
Sci-Fi
- Do you stop during reading in order to understand what you've read?
NO because I don't want to stop reading.
- What strategies do you use when approaching an unfamiliar word?
Look it up or ask.
- What benefits do you see in reading?
None.
- What was your favorite childhood book?
A picture book.
- Are you currently reading anything right now? If so, which book is it?
NO, I'm not.
- What easily distracts you when reading?
Nothing.
- What would it take to inspire you to read more often?
More books that I like.
TV in a book lol
4 ppl

Name: Trevor Wilson
Age: 19
Occupation: Texas Rangers/Kayla's boyfriend

Reading 320 Honors Project Interview Questions

- How much time do you spend reading for pleasure per week?
0 hrs
- How much time do you spend reading required materials (work, school, etc.)?
1 hr per week
- What is your favorite kind of book to read (genre, etc.)?
If I do read it would be hunting articles in magazines.
- Do you stop during reading in order to understand what you've read?
Yes I go back over to reread.
- What strategies do you use when approaching an unfamiliar word?
try to sound out or ask.
- What benefits do you see in reading?
knowing & understanding things
- What was your favorite childhood book?
hark the cow dog
- Are you currently reading anything right now? If so, which book is it?
NO
- What easily distracts you when reading?
Anything and everything I am very ADHD
- What would it take to inspire you to read more often?
If I was bored alot or things that interest me

Name: Nanna K Barry
Age: 61
Occupation: housekeeper

Reading 320 Honors Project Interview Questions

- How much time do you spend reading for pleasure per week?
1 hr with newspapers & hrs reading a book
- How much time do you spend reading required materials (work, school, etc.)?
1 hour or less
- What is your favorite kind of book to read (genre, etc.)?
romance or mystery
- Do you stop during reading in order to understand what you've read?
Sometimes
- What strategies do you use when approaching an unfamiliar word?
Sound out word
- What benefits do you see in reading?
you learn about a lot of interesting things that you don't know about.
- What was your favorite childhood book?
Becky & Jane
- Are you currently reading anything right now? If so, which book is it?
at Home in Character by Ruth S. Milligan
- What easily distracts you when reading?
TV and people
- What would it take to inspire you to read more often?
I have more time to devote to

7th Grade Student

High School Graduate

8th Grade Education