

Eastern Kentucky University Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary

Read with Purpose

Eastern Kentucky University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), *Read with Purpose*, seeks to develop critical readers who are guided by purposeful inquiry; as such, it reinforces the university's current emphasis on promoting metacognitive strategies to foster deep learning. The QEP is also grounded in EKU's strategic vision, "Make No Little Plans: A Vision for 2020," which commits to "maintaining and enhancing the critical and creative thinking" initiatives that were the focus of the previous QEP. More intentional cultivation of students' critical reading ability will support this ongoing commitment by helping students transition to the kind of purposeful reading that marks scholarly inquiry and academic and professional achievement.

Critical reading was chosen as the focus of the QEP after a four-year process of broad, inclusive discussion by all university constituencies and a concurrent examination of institutional data. University leaders, faculty, staff, and students agree that developing students' critical reading ability will improve student learning and academic success at EKU. *Read with Purpose* is guided by a central goal and three Student Learning Outcomes that will provide the measure of success:

Student Learning Goal:

The goal of the QEP is to develop critical readers through the use of metacognitive strategies.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate critical reading of academic texts and materials.
- Students will report awareness of metacognitive reading strategies.
- Students will express confidence in their abilities as critical readers.

To achieve these outcomes, EKU faculty, staff, and student leaders will use and teach metacognitive strategies that promote critical reading. Through online resources, in-person workshops, professional learning communities, and scholarly projects, EKU instructors will explore and develop innovative pedagogies to help students analyze, synthesize, and evaluate texts across disciplines. Professional development of instructors is concentrated in two areas: in first-year courses that impact nearly all students and in courses across the disciplines, including targeted General Education courses and other courses where faculty self-select to participate. Professional development of student leaders who serve as peer mentors and tutors across the university will focus on ways to recognize students' reading challenges and to support their development as critical readers. Online resources and workshops will provide student leaders with strategies to reinforce critical reading instruction in classrooms and help students have greater success with course assignments.

Direct instruction and support of metacognitive practices will help students read with purpose and develop the critical reading skills needed for deep learning. Ultimately, the work of the QEP will contribute to EKU's mission, which seeks to prepare "students to contribute to the success and vitality of their communities, the Commonwealth, and the world."

Please contact Dr. Lisa Bosley (lisa.bosely@eku.edu) or Dr. Jill Parrott (jill.parrott@eku.edu), QEP co-directors, for questions regarding *Read with Purpose*.