



Why don't my students read?

"I not going to buy the book! I can pass the class without it!"

"The professor never uses it. It's a waste of my time and money!"

"I won't read it anyway; I just study the notes."

Have you overheard similar comments? I know that have. I believe as faculty if we ask students to purchase (or rent) textbooks or assign other reading that we need to incorporate that information into our courses. We need to show our students how this information is relevant to the course. The students should be able to see the value in purchasing, reading, and studying from their required books or assigned articles, websites, etc.

The required textbook for one of my nursing courses costs approximately \$175 (new) so I strive to find numerous ways for students to use it. The following are some suggestions:

1. Reference the textbook within your PowerPoint slides or comment on a specific chapter during class. This will help the students to see that you have actually read the textbook/article. Of course, I do use supplemental material as well in addition to the textbook(s). It's helpful to share this reference information as well.
2. Explore your textbook resources from the student's perspective. Are there chapter objectives, review questions, case studies, text boxes, or online resources your students might find useful? How might you use some of these resources in your course? For example, chapter review questions could be used to stimulate discussion at the beginning of class or for practice questions perhaps with I-clickers.
3. Provide page numbers for text boxes, diagrams, pictures, or other textbook resources that the students might find useful. I include these page numbers within my PowerPoint slides and in the related notes that I email to the class.
4. Create a relevant case study to assign for an upcoming topic. Provide 'hints' where to look for answers within the assigned readings. This case study could be required to be completed as a ticket to enter class, submitted for course homework points, or simply used to stimulate an in-class or online discussion.

For more information visit: <http://www.nea.org/home/34689.htm>