

Yea-huey Carrie Chang

**THE EFFECTS OF PROMPTING ON EFL COLLEGE STUDENTS' USE
OF A MAPPING STRATEGY & THEIR RECALL OF EXPOSITORY TEXTS**

ABSTRACT

Graphically mapping key ideas and relationships is an effective way to improve reading comprehension of textbook material. An unanswered research question is the degree to which researcher prompting with blank mapping sheets influences performance. To test the effects of prompting on mapping behavior and reading comprehension, 67 college students participated in current study. All received training sessions on constructing maps. After training, participants were randomly assigned to prompted or unprompted groups and tested with one group prompted by a blank map-construction sheet and the other, not. Testing involved a background knowledge questionnaire, a reading passage, demographic/reading habit survey, a free written recall, and a debriefing questionnaire. One week later, a delayed recall was administered to measure retention of the passage.

Results showed that when prompting was present, participants were more likely to construct maps, but map quality was not necessarily higher. Analysis of maps revealed no difference in quality between groups, suggesting prompting only influenced choice of mapping, not map quality. Overall map quality was low. There were low correlations between map quality and immediate and delayed recall performance. The lack of significant differences between groups may be interpreted as an outcome of low-quality

maps produced by the prompted group and use by the unprompted group of comprehension techniques such as identifying text organization, using signals, and/or locating main ideas.

Data from the debriefing questionnaire suggested that negative personal beliefs had prevented 19 in the unprompted group from applying mapping. Some reported doing mental maps, some chose not to map believing it was time-consuming or not useful, some reported vocabulary-related problems prevented mapping. Only one indicated lack of the map-construction sheet had influenced her.