

## KEYNOTE TALKS

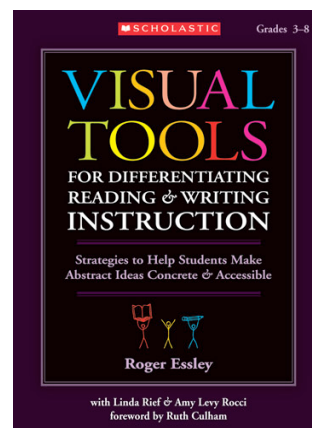
Here are four keynote talks designed to offer an inspiring introduction to the dramatic power of visual verbal tools in any classroom. These titles were targeted to specific conference audiences, but I hope taken together they suggest the range of ideas I can offer.

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Roger Essley's groundbreaking research into visual tools for inclusive literacy grew from his own early learning struggles. For more than ten years the award winning author/illustrator has been working with teachers, road testing and refining tools that engage "different learners" and sharing the exciting results: **The tools that help struggling students engage for all learners natural visual learning skills.**

His Scholastic book, Visual Tools for Differentiated Reading and Writing Instruction offers both the research and the practical how-to from many classrooms, including a chapter by well-known teacher and author **Linda Rief**, and a forward by **Ruth Culham** 6+1.



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### **Learning from the Cheap Seats: How Shakespeare, the Simpsons, and you can engage Different Learners and Enlarge the Literacy Circle.**

Articles predicting "The End of Reading," and research that finds students digital-visual smart, but disconnected from school, paint a dire picture for teachers. But we know multi-media has engaged learners since Shakespeare put three witches and a boiling pot on stage. Roger Essley shows how tapping students' natural engagement with visual verbal tools pulls reluctant readers and writers into the literacy circle. You'll see groundbreaking tools, road tested and refined in many classrooms; to boost reading comprehension and make writing and revision easier. Let students show you how simple tools used in video, web design, and in creating picture books powerfully integrate the literacy of Homer the Greek and Homer Simpson, preparing all students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century literacy in their digital visual, future.

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### **Got reluctant writers? Finding inclusion challenging? Tap the power of visual verbal tools to engage all learners.**

Give your students tools that dramatically increase reading comprehension, make writing and revision easier, and make content more memorable. Roger Essley offers an exciting hands-on exploration of road-tested strategies from many classrooms that highlight exciting learning news: The same visual tools that engage reluctant readers and writers support and advance all learners!

Participants get an introduction to strategies fully detailed in *Visual Tools for Differentiated Reading and Writing Instruction*:

- Explore the way simple visual notes helps students anchor and amplify reading comprehension and make class discussion more focused and inclusive.

- Try a visual verbal “Shared Writing” process that offers a natural approach to prewriting and an exciting antidote for dreaded revision.
- See how text and pictures integrated make content - math science and social studies - more memorable and accessible, providing effective differentiation for your text challenged kids and your high flyers.

Please note: these tools can be used across the curriculum and across grade levels. We encourage teachers to come as a team, and bring your reading specialist, special educator, and para professionals: you’ll want to share what you see here—guaranteed!

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### **Confessions of a Reluctant Writer, a Different Learner**

A revealing look at school from the “different learners” perspective, and exciting learning news from the back row. Roger shares his early learning struggles, as a reluctant reader and writer, and his adult discovery that writing was possible, even fun. His early struggles, and later success as an author illustrator, informed his groundbreaking research developing visual verbal tools that support different learners and gifted thinkers. Roger shows simple tools and practical strategies that engage reluctant readers and writers. He shows how tools that support struggling students are also the secret weapon of the gifted and talented classroom. His exciting message is that when we tap all learners natural visual verbal skills we make differentiated instruction a practical reality and we discover our different learners may be more like us, and more successful than we imagined.

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### **Data Driven: How Teaching to the TEST becomes Best Practice**

We hear a lot about data driven learning, and the challenges of teaching with TESTS and top-down curriculum from “Experts”. Roger shows provocative bottom-up research, from many classrooms: See students’ dramatic success using drawing on the state Math test, and how second graders’ visual notes boost reading comprehension and make assessment more inclusive and accurate. Roger links practical tools with literacy research to show how tapping learners natural visual verbal skills makes learning easier. See practical tools for reading, writing, content and more, tools that enlarge the literacy circle as they prepare students for the TEST, and for the learning challenges in their digital visual future.