Reading and summarizing activities in esp

One of the most crucial concerns in the establishments of a reading curriculum is the selection and development of effective materials. Authentic texts should be used in order to provide the students with an instrumental motivation for their language study. This not only provides students with substantial background knowledge, but also improves motivation. These two factors, background knowledge and motivation are of critical importance in the reading process, especially in the case of readers whose linguistic proficiency is below native-like levels.

First, students select the materials relevant to their special course studying. The teacher manages the process and helps students with their work. Both authentic and simplified materials are possible according to a language proficiency level of a group. The notes and summaries students generate from the articles are monitored for quality and communicative adequacy.

Second, students make presentation of the material they have read in the seminar group. Discussion seminars are led by 2 – 3 students. Those responsible for the seminar each prepare a summary on the topic addressing the Class Question set for the seminar. There also some of special terms on each topic should be presented to the group.

These activities help students not only to gain their knowledge in English and in a special technical field, but also to practice in making presentation. Creative solutions may be found as long as students’ target needs are kept in mind.