Research Article

Teaching Stasis Theory as a Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing Tool in Engineering Subjects

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This article presents a novel application of stasis theory to help engineering students become skilled at central practices in their field. Stasis theory has a long history in rhetoric as a means to identify and organize unanswered questions or areas of disagreement with respect to a topic, discussion, or inquiry. Using stasis theory, engineering students can improve their abilities to think critically about reported research, organize and critique existing research as background for their own novel experiments, make experimental and design decisions in collaborative projects, and write about their original research and designs. After explaining stasis theory and its nuances, this article shows detailed examples of its use for these practices in helping students develop engineering judgment.