Developing Academic Literacy with First Year Undergraduates.

Work in progress (or groping towards solutions)
Academic Literacy

• Can ‘new to university’ learners do the reading and writing required?
• Lea and Street (1998, 1997)
  – study skills
  – academic socialisation
  – academic literacies
The story so far....

• Research approach
• Research context
  – learners
  – learning
• TLA approach to academic literacy
Learners at transition.
The focus for the session – reading and writing for academic purposes

• What can the ‘new to the university’ learner do?

• What is the tutor’s responsibility?
  – Curriculum design
  – Classroom practices
Developing Academic Writing

From the data from 176 learners over the last 6 years suggests that

• Doing a version 1 essay with feedback *(but no mark)* helps most learners
  – Personalised approach within the same structured frame
  – Limited to three points
  – One to one meeting
Reading for academic purposes

• Perhaps many learners come to university with too little practice of traditional approaches to reading and writing for university work.

• But they come with a wealth of experience in new literacies – believe me none of them is illiterate.
Responses as tutors

• Status quo?
  – Muddle through doing more of the things that help learners

• Influence institutional approaches to curriculum development?
  – Embed new literacies as part of the learning ‘diet’
  – Enable transitions (at each stage) for learners by establishing incrementally processes of thinking and working that are discipline/subject specific
What I have been reading - some starting places for exploring the issues:

http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/hlst/documents/events/aske_reference_list.pdf