

# Share Learning Ally with Your Fellow Teachers for Increased Student Success



Ensuring that other teachers in your school or district know about Learning Ally is a key part of student success. Struggling readers usually have difficulties in all of their classes, so it is important to make sure that teachers in both general and special education are informed about the resources and tools for students to accommodate their learning. This is an effective approach to ensure that students are supported in all of their classes.

## MAKE A PLAN TO TELL OTHERS

STEP  
1

### HOW AND WHERE TO SHARE

Make a plan for how and where to share about Learning Ally. Below are some suggestions:

- Introduce Learning Ally at a staff meeting.
- Host a "Lunch and Learn" where you invite teachers to come and learn more about Learning Ally. The group of teachers who attend could become the school champions for Learning Ally.
- Work with a student to help spread the word about Learning Ally. Students can be great advocates and some are willing to share their story.
- Hang the **We Use Learning Ally** poster in or around your room to prompt questions from others.
- Start small. Think of 1-2 teachers/educators that promote literacy and reading. You know the ones that have a fire in them to do whatever it takes to educate students.
- Forward one of the videos below to colleagues to help them learn more about Learning Ally:
  - > [Tell an Elementary Teacher](#)
  - > [Tell a Middle School Teacher](#)
  - > [Tell General Educators](#)

## COMMON OBJECTIONS

STEP  
2

### BE PREPARED FOR OBJECTIONS

While you know the benefits of using Learning Ally audiobooks, others may not be so familiar with the outcomes that students can experience. Be prepared to handle some common objections like:

#### **Objection: Audiobooks are a crutch.**

Oftentimes, educators might think that using audiobooks is a crutch and doesn't teach students to read or that students need to learn how to read in the traditional sense so they can navigate the world.

#### RESPONSE:

*"Learning Ally audiobooks are not designed to teach reading. Reading should be taught through an explicit, structured program. Audiobooks are designed to bridge students to grade level content and provide them access to materials that everyone else in their class is reading. No more 'baby' books. They can be reading and learning right alongside their peers."*

### Objection: It's not really reading.

Some educators may believe many myths about audiobooks. Share the “**Bust the Myths**” poster.

#### RESPONSE:

*“Would you ever tell someone who is blind that they aren't reading when they read Braille? The same applies for someone who uses their ears to read. Reading is not only being able to pull words off of a page, it's the ability to comprehend and understand. Audiobooks allow our struggling readers to understand.”*

## CREATE TIME IN YOUR DAY

### Objections: I don't have time for another program.

Time is a thief for most educators. There are just not enough hours in the day to accomplish everything you would like, and Learning Ally could be perceived another thing to be learned and implemented.

#### RESPONSE:

*“Using Learning Ally actually can work to your advantage and help to create time in your day. Right now, your classroom is filled with students who are not engaged because they can't access the material that everyone else is working on. You are probably spending time and mental energy thinking about how to help these students, and working 1:1 to scaffold their learning. When you use Learning Ally human-read audiobooks, it's like you have brought another person into the classroom. You can have confidence that your struggling readers are getting access to the grade level content they need.”*

### Objections: What about “The Test?”

Many teachers worry that by providing students with access to audiobooks throughout the year doesn't prepare them for the state test because they might not be able to get that same accommodation.

#### RESPONSE:

*“Learning Ally audiobooks bridge struggling readers to content that they would not have been exposed to before. By using this accommodation throughout the year, they are improving their fluency, vocabulary and comprehension, which leads to the activation of higher order thinking skills. Students who use Learning Ally all year tend to perform higher on standardized tests.”*

## GOOD LUCK SHARING!

STEP  
3

### DECIDE WHAT TO SHARE

Sometimes it's easy to fall into a trap of wanting to share too much, and with Learning Ally, there are so many good things to share. Stay focused and make sure that you are hitting on the needs of the teachers that you are sharing with. Some topics to discuss include:

- **Student impact:** share your own stories of the social, emotional and academic improvements you have seen in your own students socially, emotionally, and academically.
- **Learning Ally audiobooks:** emphasize human-read! Learning Ally has volunteers to record high-quality audiobooks. Over 80,000 human-read audiobooks are in the catalog, including: textbooks, novels, and literature all the way from kindergarten through graduate school.
- **Eligibility:** share the [Eligibility Guide](#) to have the conversation about the # of students that could benefit. Work through the first section of the [Goal Setting Worksheet](#).
- **How to use in the classroom:** use [Strategies by Device](#) and the [Audiobook Strategies](#) information to help others understand that Learning Ally is a tool that can be used for struggling readers in all places and during all classes.