

Course: Comprehension Strategies in Reader's Workshop, 3-5

Instructor: Michelle Worthy, M.Ed

Email: michelle_worthy@yahoo.com

Phone: 508-359-1595

Course Description: Comprehension is the goal of any reading experience. Successful readers employ a variety of different strategies while reading to ensure understanding. This course focuses on learning and understanding research based comprehension strategies to be used in grades 3-5. Participants will learn about comprehension strategies, teach the strategies, reflect on the implementation, and plan a comprehension strategy unit.

Course Goal: The goal of the course is to share research based comprehension strategies that will enable teachers to not only reflect on the research, but also to teach students comprehension strategies good readers employ.

Course Materials: There is no text to purchase for this course. All readings will be available online.

Course Schedule:

Module I Comprehension Research

In this module, participants will be assigned a variety of readings, which address the research behind current comprehension instructional strategies. Participants will understand the importance of teaching students pre-reading, during reading, and post-reading strategies to ensure student understanding and will reflect on the research.

Module II Pre-reading Comprehension Strategies

In this module, participants will explore effective pre-reading comprehension strategies and how they fit into mini-lesson instruction during Reading Workshop. Teachers will understand how pre-reading strategies increase student motivation and engagement with the text.

Module III During Reading Comprehension Strategies

In this module, participants will learn strategies that increase comprehension during the reading. Teachers will learn “fix up” strategies to teach to students when comprehension breaks down.

Module IV Post-reading Comprehension Strategies

In this module, post-reading strategies beyond book projects will be discussed. Teachers will understand the variety of ways that students can demonstrate understanding and will begin to explore comprehension assessment.

Course Requirements:

I. Discussion Board Participation (25%): Every week, I will assign specific online readings and will post specific questions about the reading. Participants will answer two of the questions directly and will respond to at least one other student's posting.

II. Implementation Journal (25%): For each module, participants will submit to the instructor entries on how the implementation of the strategies presented is working in their classroom. The journal entry will include references to the research presented in the class and personal reflections on what the participant is learning in the course and how that is impacting student learning.

III. Project (50%): Participants will create a comprehension strategy unit based on one of the strategies presented in the course. The unit will include an overview of the strategy with references to the research, a written lesson progression including all mini-lessons, procedures, and necessary literature to teach the strategy, and a description of expected learning outcomes.

Deadlines: Discussion Board responses and Implementation Journal responses for the first three modules are due by 3pm the Saturday of each week. Module IV Discussion Board responses and Implementation Journal responses are due by 3 pm Thursday of the last week. Final projects are due by 5 pm on the last day of class.