



DR. DARLENE J. RUSCITTI
Regional Superintendent
DuPage County Schools

421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
Phone: 630.407.5800
Fax: 630.407.5802

The Confluence of Content Knowledge with Reading and Writing

Literacy Strategies to Implement the Common Core Across all Disciplines

The Common Core State Standards require that students read challenging, complex informational and narrative texts to gain insights, evaluate information, and broaden their perspectives and be able to write logical arguments based on substantive claims, sound reasoning, and relevant evidence. Yet content area teachers must also deliver the concepts of their discipline. Learn effective, [research](#)-based, brain compatible strategies to help students accomplish this not only in language arts but math, science and social studies and even music, P.E. and technical subjects.

A Guide to Writing Informational Text in the Disciplines

- Participants will focus on How Writing Functions; the commonalities of all writing
- Participants will learn how to help students generate an idea and support it with evidence and interpretation and how to conclude in a meaningful way.
- Participants will practice planning and composing essays and comparing articles on a related subject.

A Guide to Reading Informational Text

- Workshop will assist teachers to generate effective, meaningful conversations with their students about informational text.
- Using documents, essays and articles, participants will learn how to help students identify and use evidence to support the central idea; make inferences, analyze the sequencing of ideas and their development; and analyze the impact of language and word choice, determine the author's point of view and how it impacts a work, integrate these skills, and compare works of a similar theme and evaluate how a theme can be handled in different mediums.
- Participants will have an opportunity to practice the concepts taught

Writing Argumentative Essays

- Workshop will focus attention to constructing an argument essay with its claim, counterclaim, reasons, evidence, organizational pattern and rhetoric devices.
- Participants will practice planning and composing an argument essay as well as analyze models and construct your own essays to practice the form.

The Reading and Writing Connection: Informational Text

- Workshop will demonstrate the relationship between reading informational text and writing informational essays.
- The participants will learn how the writer constructs a text and deconstructs a piece of writing. The same skills are required for both.
- Workshop will provide a unique opportunity to explore both the writing and reading processes.
- Participants will have actual practice planning and writing an essay and discussing a document.

Developing CCSS Aligned Research Projects for All Disciplines

According to the CCSS, it is necessary for student academic development to incorporate research skills into all content areas of the curriculum. This course will assist teachers and administrators in developing these grade level projects as well as a framework for the vertical development of these projects. Research for evidence and support is a key skill that is addressed in the new Common Core Standards in grades K-12. In this course, vertical development of this skill will be reviewed and discussed for all teachers, including ELA, science, social studies, art, etc. After identifying the expectations for the identified research standards in reading and writing as well as speaking and listening, grade level projects including creating reports and presentations which are group-based as well as individual-based will be developed. The appropriate grade level processes of research will be incorporated in each project and a variety of opportunities to practice these skills throughout the school year will be mapped in this course.

Academic Vocabulary Instruction in the Disciplines

Knowing a word is more than knowing a definition, and different kinds of words require different learning strategies. This workshop will focus on empowering students with knowledge of core academic words related to content areas as well as to assessments. Instructional strategies that actively involve students while expanding their knowledge of academic vocabulary will be included, particularly those found in prompts encountered by students and those embedded in assessment questions.

Effectively Managing Collaboration in the Engaged Classroom

In this active engagement professional development opportunity, teachers will experience how collaboration helps students develop 21st Century thinking skills, deepen content understanding and prepare them for the global world. Teachers learn how to plan and manage collaboration activities that integrate speaking and listening Common Core Standards with any discipline. Administrators will learn what to look for in the collaborative classroom.