



Accelerated Literacy Learning

Course Overview

This course focuses on teaching high school students to write persuasive arguments. By highlighting the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) ELA argument writing requirements, this course will provide guidance on implementing the specific grade-level iterations of what students are expected to be able to do. Throughout the course, you will learn to deconstruct, analyze, research, and write an argument essay that meets the Common Core standards and expectations for high school (grades 9–12).

While the final product of the course will be a fully revised and edited argument essay, participants will be taken through all stages of the writing process, from learning the elements of an argument writing essay to analyzing sample texts, choosing fruitful topics, completing writing activities, considering their audience, gathering research, revising and editing their work. All of these stages are designed to help participants formulate their own strategies for teaching argument essay writing as prescribed by the Common Core State Standards.

About Accelerated Literacy Learning

This course was developed by content experts from Accelerated Literacy Learning (A.L.L.). A.L.L. provides institutes, workshops, onsite and online professional development. If you and your colleagues would like more information about customized professional development with one of our many consultants including Kristin Lim, please contact A.L.L. director, Susan Radley Brown at www.acceleratedliteracylearning.com.

Topics by Session

Session 1 – The Argument Essay

- Explore the goals of argument essay writing
- Learn the specific parts of an argument essay: from a thesis statement to supporting evidence, counterclaims, and conclusion
- Analyze and break down an essay into its fundamental components

Session 2 – Immersion in the Genre

- Investigate the genre of argument writing as it pertains to the expectations of the Common Core Standards
- Examine what makes argument writing different from other styles of writing
- Evaluate essays for a deeper understanding of the motivations for writing and the specific techniques used to achieve goals

Session 3- Topic Selection Factors

- Learn what to consider when choosing a specific and appropriate topic for argument writing
- Gain knowledge concerning effective strategies for forming an evidence-based opinion on a topic
- Walk through the steps of examining and selecting an appropriate topic

Session 4- Where to Begin?

- Explore writing activities in order to select a strong topic to defend
- Identify ways in which to consider an audience when writing an argument essay

Session 5- Putting It All Together

- Combine all of the elements learned from the previous sessions and create a rough draft of an argument essay

Session 6- Revising and Editing Your Essay

- Review and analyze the rough draft of your argument essay
- Recognize the differences between editing and revising
- Finalize and submit a final draft of your argument essay

Throughout the course, opportunities are provided for teachers to connect their learning across sessions and to explicitly consider the implications of that learning for classroom practice. Teachers will also be able to revisit their work and reflections by viewing their individual Course Portfolios.