



## Course Outline

In this course, teachers will develop strategies to strengthen and balance their use of informational and literary texts to address the reading comprehension challenge and instructional shift required by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

This course highlights two of the ten Common Core ELA Reading Anchor Standards: ELA Reading Anchor *Standard 10 – Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity* and ELA Reading Anchor *Standard 5 – Craft and Structure*. The course will also provide guidance on implementing the specific grade-level iterations of what students are expected to be able to do.

After completing the course, teachers will have more knowledge and practice in these key skill areas:

- Using thinkalouds to model comprehension strategies for both types of texts;
- Considering important factors when selecting instructional texts across various genres, including text complexity; and
- Identifying key text structures and text features for explicit instruction in both informational and literary texts.

## Goals & Purpose

### *Session 1 – Using Thinkalouds to Model Strategy Use*

- Explore the role of thinkalouds in explicit comprehension strategy instruction for both informational and literary texts.
- Prepare a thinkaloud to model the use of comprehension strategies
- Learn how a content expert uses these course materials and her own classroom experience using thinkalouds to teach reading comprehension strategies

### *Session 2 – Choosing the Right Text*

- Learn about key elements to consider when selecting appropriate texts for effective reading comprehension strategy instruction, including dimensions of text complexity
- Explore myths about the challenges of teaching with informational texts
- Complete a text selection assessment to immediately apply what they've learned

***Session 3 – Teaching Text Structures***

- Learn how to best support students to meet Common Core ELA Reading Anchor Standard 5
- Explore instructional tools such as signal words and graphic organizers to help teach text structure
- Develop a thinkaloud that highlights the use of signal words, text features, and a graphic organizer as a way to model understanding of a text structure
- Listen to an informational overview which summarizes the key text structures used to organize narrative text (e.g., story elements) and informational texts

***Session 4 – Pulling It All Together***

- Review information and/or activities you completed in earlier sessions
- Reflect on your learning and progress related to key concepts in the course

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.