



Course Outline

In this course, teachers will learn what the research says about how text discussions, as a form of close reading, improve reading comprehension for adolescents. Teachers will learn how metacognition supports reading and how to incorporate metacognitive reading practices into instruction as a routine. Teachers will learn about different types of student-led groups for having text discussions and ways to create a classroom climate conducive to student participation in text discussions.

As teachers deepen their understanding of text discussion for improving reading comprehension, they will view expert and classroom videos of text discussion in action, learn from research, complete activities to check their learning, and apply this learning to their classroom practice. A course portfolio provides an opportunity to revisit key ideas, strategies, and reflections during and after the course.

Goals & Purpose

Session 1 – Introduction to Text Discussion

- Learn about text discussion and understand how to improve reading for adolescents
- Find out what the research says about text discussion and reading comprehension for high school students
- Discover how text discussion is a close reading strategy, supporting Common Core instructional goals
- Reflect on your own knowledge and comfort level about text discussions

Session 2 – Metacognition: “Thinking about Your Thinking”

- Understand how metacognition supports reading comprehension
- Explore metacognitive practices: Think Aloud, Metacognitive Logs, Thinking Notes
- Observe metacognitive practices in action
- Reflect on your understanding of metacognition

Session 3 – Student-Led Small Group Discussions

- Examine the four structures for student-led text discussions
- Analyze the teacher’s role in facilitating text discussions
- Observe text discussion groups in action
- Reflect on observations about student engagement, teacher role, and scaffolds
- Practice annotating a text in preparation for a text discussion group
- Take action with preliminary planning for text discussion in your classroom

Session 4 – Setting the Stage for Successful Text Discussions in Your Classroom

- Learn about norm setting for productive text discussions
- Consider how classroom climate impacts student participation and understand how to group students for collaboration
- Analyze what the research says about configuring effective groups
- Reflect about how a safe climate supports risk-taking and learning
- Read about different types of collaborative groups and essentials for effective group work

Session 5 – Pulling it All Together

- Review and reflect on the information and/or activities you completed in this session
- Track your progress in learning about text discussions as a reading comprehension strategy and your comfort level in implementing them
- Complete the post-self-assessment
- Take stock of what you have learned about text discussions for improving reading comprehension of adolescents