

Reading and Writing in Content Areas



Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Content area reading and writing enables students to engage with subject-specific materials effectively. By developing strong reading comprehension and writing skills, children can better understand complex concepts and theories, and think critically about the information they encounter. Teaching students content area reading and writing activities can also help them develop the academic language skills necessary for communicating their ideas.

Throughout this course, participants will delve into the fundamentals of reading comprehension, explore effective writing techniques in content areas, and apply research-based instructional routines to facilitate student learning. Participants will engage in hands-on activities and reflective practices.

Renew a Teaching License by Professional Learning Board is an approved R2S provider in South Carolina.



Official Transcript:
3 Semester Credits



Online Content



Quizzes and
Assignments

Reading and Writing in Content Areas

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the participant will be able to:

- Design and implement reading comprehension routines in the classroom that include asking and answering questions, identifying the author's purpose, analyzing cause-and-effect relationships, and comparing or contrasting information.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply reading and writing strategies, such as identifying main topics and key details, making connections, and drawing inferences.
- Develop read-aloud lessons tailored to their grade level and curriculum objectives by selecting appropriate texts, pre-teaching vocabulary, generating discussion questions, and incorporating strategies to encourage text-to-self and text-to-world connections.
- Explore various content area reading strategies and resources aimed at bridging subject area content with reading instruction. Participants will use specific strategies to build student background knowledge, integrate literacy skills into content areas, and foster reading proficiency across disciplines.
- Utilize instructional tools such as seed discussions and concept circles to support academic vocabulary development.

Hours/Credits: 60 Hours

Target Audience: Teachers, Educators, Literacy Specialists (K-12)

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Resources & Tools for
Professional Learning Plans

Reading and Writing in Content Areas

Sequence of Study

Section 1: Reading Comprehension (3 Hours)

- Foundations for Reading Comprehension
- Understanding Reading Comprehension
- Science of Reading

Assessment: Review key concepts with an interactive quiz.

Section 2: Writing in Content Areas (2 Hours)

- Elements of Writing
- Building Writing Skills
- Text Structures in Writing

Assessment: Review key concepts with an interactive quiz.

Section 3: Reading & Writing Routines: Highlighting Comparisons (8 Hours)

- Learning to implement reading and writing instruction routines
- Ask and Answer Questions
- Authors Purpose
- Cause and Effect
- Compare and Contrast
- Includes downloadable and editable graphic organizers

Assessment: Practice each of the strategies introduced in this section using the graphic organizers provided. Upload the reading text and completed graphic organizers.

Section 4: Reading & Writing Routines: Finding Emphasis (7 Hours)

- Learning to implement reading and writing instruction routines
- Main Topic and Key Details
- Make Connections
- Make an Inference
- Includes downloadable and editable graphic organizers

Assessment: Practice each of the strategies introduced in this section using the graphic organizers provided. Upload the reading text and completed graphic organizers.

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Section 5: Reading & Writing Routines: Analyzing Text (8 Hours)

- Learning to implement reading and writing instruction routines
- Narrative Text Elements
- Sequence Narrative Text
- Summarize Narrative Text
- Includes downloadable and editable graphic organizers

Assessment: Practice each of the strategies introduced in this section using the graphic organizers provided. Upload the reading text and completed graphic organizers.

Section 6: Read Alouds (7 Hours)

- Using Read Alouds to teach Reading Comprehension.
- Preparing students to comprehend text before it is read to them.

Assessment: Identify text relevant to the grade level that you teach. Plan a read-aloud lesson that you could use with your students. Mention the following details: What vocabulary will you pre-teach? What questions will you ask before, during and/or after reading? What can you do to encourage text-to-self connections? What can you do to encourage text-to-world connections?

Section 7: Content Area Reading Strategies (9 Hours)

- Bridging subject area content and reading instruction
- Building background knowledge
- Identifying texts suitable for students

Assessment: Write an article describing 3 approaches to Content Area Reading that you can adopt in your classroom to help students build their Content Area Reading skills. Explain the strategies and how you will implement them. (1000 words)

Section 8: Reading Comprehension Checklist (8 Hours)

- Using the Reading Comprehension Checklist as a tool to examine a content-area text.
- Downloadable version of the checklist.

Assessment: Practice using the Reading Comprehension Checklist and upload your results.

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Section 9: Seed Discussions for Content Areas (4 Hours)

- Learning to implement Seed Discussions
- Using Seed Discussions to introduce New Topics
- Downloadable graphic organizer.

Assessment: Write an article about how you will use Seed Discussions. Explain your strategy, the content area and the grade level you will use it with as well as what the objectives will be and how you will help your students engage and learn. (500 words)

Section 10: Concept Circles for Academic Vocabulary (4 Hours)

- Learning to use Concept Circles to introduce and talk about New Vocabulary.
- Setting up various types of Concept Circles.
- Using concept circles in a range of disciplines.

Assessment: Write an article about Concept Circles and how you will use them. Explain your strategy, the content area and grade level you will use it with, what the objectives will be and how you will help your students engage and learn. (500 Words)



Practice Skills



Download
Resources



Classroom
Instruction Demos