

## **Reading Strategies for Common Core Success**

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 4-5 pm Pacific

(Select the Conference link beneath the calendar to join)

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### **Course Overview\Course Goals**

Common Core State Standards push all teachers to support students' reading of complex texts with increasing independence. Focusing on inquiry and investigative reading strategies, this course will help you increase student engagement, content understanding, and overall academic achievement. As teachers, you will practice discipline-specific reading techniques in history that will empower your students to become independent readers and learners.

Delivered over six weeks, each module features a different aspect of skill building and important questions to address:

- Module 1: Reading in the Common Core and Discipline-Specific Reading
- Module 2: Purposeful Thinking and Entry Texts
- Module 3: Purposeful Questions and Inquiry Thinking
- Module 4: How to Closely Read and Sustain Inquiry
- Module 5: What Important Questions Do Readers Ask during Reading?
- Module 6: After Reading: Investigative Thinking

Each module includes a written introduction and narrated PowerPoint slideshow; a Theoretical Reading; discussion questions for the online forum; and an activity involving skills and strategies learned in the module.

### **Course Teaching Methods**

This course meets online for six weeks. There is no designated meeting time and work may be done at participants' convenience; however there are specific deadlines that must be met. Students will be evaluated primarily based on their participation in the discussion forum.

### **Guiding Questions:**

To understand more clearly how this professional development course will help you implement Common Core expectations in your teaching and support student learning outcomes of the Common Core, we provide a series of relevant questions and answers.

- **What are the specific things the Common Core asks you to do, and how does this program address them? (Cite specific textual evidence, Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text, etc.)**

Specifically, the Common Core emphasizes that readers should read a variety of texts with ever-increasing complexity. This course offers specific ideas for using a wide variety of complex texts, including primary and secondary sources. The Common Core also requires readers to be able to analyze text, make claims, and support those claims with text-based evidence. Through this course, teachers will see concrete examples of how they can guide students to find textual evidence. Further, the Common Core pushes teachers to use “close reading” to analyze short text for deeper understanding of what is in the text. *Reading Strategies for Common Core Success* presents options for ways to teach close reading from a discipline-specific perspective. Deep content dives into complex, nonfiction texts the social studies are learning outcomes of course content.

- **How will this affect you directly as a teacher of Social Studies teaching the Common Core? How does it affect every other teacher?**

As a social studies teacher the two guiding national policy pushes directing your instructional practice are the Common Core and the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework. The later standards embody the goals of the Common Core ELA standards for History and the Social Sciences. Combined, these standards emphasize the importance of reading nonfiction and information texts common to the social studies. This emphasis on reading complex social studies text is not just a social studies concern but is a significant shift in what will be taught in English classes. Furthermore, close reading of these complex texts is a pedagogical expectation for all teachers.

The Common Core requires deep reading in the unique disciplines of social studies. Teaching in this way requires that social studies teachers understand the reading process and how to guide students in reading a variety of social studies texts. The standards align social studies with language arts standards, making it paramount that social studies teachers can support students’ reading processes.

- **What will you need to do to make sure you meet the standards in your classroom?**  
As a Common Core teacher, you will need to gradually shift the responsibility for reading diverse and complex texts to students. This demands a soft scaffolding approach in which you support student Common Core comprehension skill set development over time. In this course are concrete tools to help Common Core teachers meet student learning outcomes, including: a) ways to frame reading instruction in social studies texts; b) specific short texts to try with students; and c) ways to think about questioning within texts. To be successful, you will need to engage in course content by experimenting with the

recommended tools, reflecting on your applications with peers and course instructors, and revising applications for use in your classroom.

- **What Common Core State Standards are addressed?**

Each week, we identify at the beginning of each module, the specific standards that are the pedagogical foci of module content.