

Strategies to Teach Critical Vocabulary

Course Outline

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to teach educators how to increase their students' success in school and life by building their vocabulary and understanding of critical words. Students must be able to understand what is being asked of them in order to process new information presented. The vocabulary words discussed in this course are highly relevant in both academic and social situations.

A primary goal of this course will require teachers to use what they are learning and in turn implement these strategies and vocabulary into the curriculum in order to create student understanding. Participants will discover how to use old and new strategies in creating personal toolboxes, and assess useful strategies to integrate vocabulary throughout the curriculum. The use of technology to further extend understanding and to provide tools to capture the attention of twenty first century learners will also be a focus.

Objectives

- Evaluate research on vocabulary.
- Assess how vocabulary is currently being used in your classroom.
- Identify the ways memory works.
- Describe and use critical verbs and critical nouns.
- Analyze various strategies for teaching critical verbs and critical nouns.
- Create lesson plans for using critical verbs, and strategies to enhance teaching critical nouns.
- Develop a list of strategies to enhance the teaching of critical verbs.
- Analyze websites used to enhance teaching of vocabulary.
- Create a list of useful strategies for all words.
- Discuss the Common Core Vocabulary Standards.
- Examine the Common Core App to identify specific standards to your grade level.
- Compare fundamental strategies to implement these words daily.
- Design activities using new strategies.
- Create a long term plan for embedding vocabulary in lesson plans.

Curriculum Design & Time Requirements

This is a forty-five-hour, three credit graduate level course completed over two weekends or one week. Students must be present for the entire duration of the course as well as complete assignments at home.

Course Materials

The text for this course will serve as an outline. The required textbook for this course is *Teaching the Critical Vocabulary of the Common Core: 55 Words That Make or Break Student Understanding*, by Marilee Sprenger. Using this text, educators will learn specific teaching strategies to utilize within the classroom. Teachers will be able to modify classroom curriculum, so they include new strategies on teaching vocabulary. Reflection on the text and integration questions at the end of each chapter will be utilized in the course to check for understanding. Research articles and other materials, such as interactive websites, may be incorporated by the instructor.

Module Outline

Module 1: Researching the Importance of Vocabulary

Contents:

1. Member Introductions and Ice Breaker Activity using Web 2.0 technologies
2. Define vocabulary
3. Explain the Three Tiers and the “How” of Teaching Vocabulary
4. Discuss the critical words.
5. Reflections on the Introduction and Chapter 1

Module 2: Processing and Storing Vocabulary

Contents:

1. Discussion on how the mind works focusing on the gradual release of responsibility model.
2. Explore the Scenario’s in the chapter and discuss.
3. Examine how the brain stores information.
4. Assignment: Explore articles and sites provided and create a memory situation plan.
5. Reflections on Chapter 2

Module 3: The Critical Verbs

Contents:

1. Explore the verbs used in the Common Core Standards
2. Review Blooms Taxonomy and Norman Webb’s Depth of Knowledge Levels
3. Use the information provided to determine how important the words are to your current teaching assignment.
4. Choose two strategies used in this chapter and show how you can use them in two different lessons. (Show the Common Core Standards)
5. Assignment: Prepare a pre-assessment for your grade level
6. Assignment: Create a poster for your classroom of the critical words and their definitions in a catchy way.
7. Reflections on Chapter 3

Module 4: The Critical Nouns

Contents:

1. Learn the critical nouns and discuss them
2. Choose two strategies used in this chapter and show how you can use them in two different lessons. (Show the Common Core Standards)
3. Assignment: Prepare a pre-assessment for your grade level
4. Assignment: Create a poster for your classroom of the critical words and their definitions in a catchy way.
5. Reflections on Chapter 4

Module 5: The Last Words

Contents:

1. Identifying other words that are critical to vocabulary enhancement.
2. Look at the four words: Classify/Categorize, Explicitly, Recognize and Recount. Examine where we typically find these words.
3. Share the grade levels these words appear on the CCSS and choose a strategy to teach each one with deep understanding.
4. Reflections on Chapter 5

Module 6: Common Core Vocabulary Standards

Contents:

1. Common Core App - find and download APP or PDF.
2. Build understanding on terms “General Academic” and “Domain Specific”
3. Few or Flood Approach? (pg 193)
4. Setting the stage for success. Choosing the words with students.
5. Examine the components of interactive read-alouds

Module 7: Reflection and Article Reviews

Contents:

1. Explore classroom strategies to make the words stick.
2. View videos that show teaching vocabulary in action and evaluate.
3. Review a professional article.
4. Create a pocket reference card for students to memorize key vocabulary definitions. Be creative and use a “catch” such as the jingles.
5. Share an idea for a Schoolwide Strategy.
6. Reflections on Chapter 7

Module 8: Using the Web to Enhance Vocabulary

Contents:

1. Explore and critique 5 interactive websites.
2. Create a list of 5 - 10 websites with classroom applications.
3. Assignment: Create four vocabulary lesson plans using technology that you can implement right away.

Module 9: Templates for Graphic Organizers

Contents:

1. Review Strategies for Critical Verbs and Critical Nouns and implement.
2. Explore the templates (pg. 203) and use one in a lesson.
3. Use websites on graphic organizers to become familiar with vocabulary.
4. Assignment: Create a guide for teachers/parents/administrators that explains the importance of teaching vocabulary and creating a pre-assessment across the grade levels.

Module 10: Additional Resources/Final Project/Final Exam

Contents:

1. Overview of resources and suggested websites
2. Final Reflections
3. Final Project

Grading

Assignments	Points	Grading Scale	
Participation/Interaction with Instructor	20	100 – 93	A
Reflections & Reflection Questions	30	92 – 85	B
Final Reflections	20	84 - 77	C
Final Integration Project	30		
Total Points	100		

Student Requirements

1. Actively participate in all weekly assignments and email interactions with instructor.
2. Complete all readings and reflection assignments. Written reflections for each session during the course are required. Each reflection must conform to APA style.
3. Final project: Students are required to construct a portfolio during the course that will serve as a toolkit of specific ideas and lesson plans for their classrooms.

Student Academic Integrity

Participants guarantee that all academic class work is original. Any academic dishonesty or plagiarism (to take ideas, writings, etc. from another and offer them as one's own), is a violation of student academic behavior standards as outlined by our partnering colleges and universities and is subject to academic disciplinary action.