Literacy Focus of the Month
Grades 6-12

“The more ways we teach, the more students we are going to reach.”
—Betty Hollas

Office of Elementary Education and Reading

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Ensuring a bright future for every child
September Literacy Focus of the Month
Guiding Questions for Participants

Secondary Literacy Focus of the Month – Morphology

1. Why is it important to set the purpose and engage students in a lesson opener or anticipatory set before instruction takes place?

2. During each lesson, how did the teachers scaffold or use supports when students struggle to understand the concept?

3. How did the teachers prepare for possible road blocks during the lesson?

4. Discuss the ways each teacher provided corrective feedback to students during instruction. Why is corrective feedback important?

October Literacy Focus of the Month
Guiding Questions for Participants

Secondary Literacy Focus of the Month – Vocabulary and Word Attack Strategies

1. Why is it important to explicitly teach vocabulary in all content areas?

2. How does the teacher connect vocabulary to real world situations? Why is this important?

3. Why is it important that the first step in defining an unknown word is to NOT use the dictionary?
November Literacy Focus of the Month
Guiding Questions for Participants

Secondary Literacy Focus of the Month – Oral Reading and Fluency

1. What is the benefit of using the phrase-cued reading strategy in a small group setting?

2. How might this strategy impact comprehension?

3. Why is it important to have students to reread a sentence with correct phrasing after teacher modeling?

December Literacy Focus of the Month
Guiding Questions for Participants

Secondary Literacy Focus of the Month – Comprehension

1. What are the benefits of using this strategy to help students find the gist of a passage one paragraph at a time?

2. What are the benefits of having students read aloud while the teacher monitors their reading?

3. How does the teacher scaffold the learning throughout the lesson?
January Literacy Focus of the Month
Guiding Questions for Participants

Secondary Literacy Focus of the Month – Writing Connected to Text

1. What are the benefits of reviewing the skill of inferencing prior to introducing the written discussion strategy?

2. How does this strategy allow teachers to incorporate other standards outside of the writing standards?

3. What are benefits to having students complete a writing task using this strategy over a period of days versus one class setting?

February Literacy Focus of the Month
Guiding Questions for Participants

Secondary Literacy Focus of the Month – Cooperative Learning

1. How does fostering student discussion increase student success?

2. What information could a teacher learn about his/her students while using this strategy?

3. How could you group students during this strategy for optimum results?

4. What are some ways that the students could share the information gathered?

5. How could a teacher incorporate the MS College- and Career-Readiness Standards (CCRS) while using the 3-Step Interview Strategy?

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March/April Literacy Focus of the Month
Guiding Questions for Participants

Secondary Literacy Focus of the Month – *Before, During, and After Reading (BDA)*
Strategies

1. How does utilizing before reading strategies increase student interest and comprehension?

2. What information to modify instruction could the teacher learn from using before reading strategies?

3. What information could the teacher learn about her students while utilizing the following strategies? How could this information be utilized for remediation?
   a. Concept Sort
   b. Questioning the Author
   c. Get the Gist
   d. Question Answer Relationship

4. How could the strategies from the video be extended to include writing?