

Current Issues in Literacy Development: 15:299:553

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Objectives of the Course:

1. Study current issues in literacy that have to do with Research, Policy, and Practice
2. Study the types of resources there are for teachers to improve their craft: Conferences, Policy Statements, Websites, Journals, other Professional Development options
3. Review topics in literacy of general interest to all
4. Select a topic of literacy of interest to you

Required Reading:

1. Teaching with the Common Core Standards in Language Arts:
PreK-2, and Teaching with the Common Core Standards in Language Arts; 3 to 5
2. A text selected by you that is an area of literacy you want to learn more about

Please check the text with me.

Structure of the Course

1. We have an e-college website in the name of the course. We will have threaded discussions, presentations, lectures by me with a power point, and videos all online.
2. There will be weekly asynchronous assignments online. They will mostly be in the form of threaded discussions.
3. When assignments are due, there could be presentations by students online.
4. In addition to our online meetings we will meet 3 times during the course, when the course begins in December (this meeting). A meeting when school starts. The meetings are to find out how things are going and to discuss your experiences and assignments.

5. Students will receive an incomplete for the course since it can't be finished during the winter session. All work but going to conferences is due at the end of winter break. Incomplete grades will be changed when all work is done.

Requirements

1. Students are expected to participate in weekly online discussions. Individuals will be assigned weeks to be the director of the discussions. The discussions will be about an assigned chapter from our texts. A rubric for the director for discussions is found below.

2. Students will attend 5 approved conferences on the topic of literacy. Each conference will be written up in a reflective mode. First quickly describe the event you attended and then follow the rubric below for conferences you attend.

3. Students will write a paper about the book they chose. Why they chose it. What they learned and what they will do in practice as a result of reading the book. Go online to Heinemann, Guilford, IRA, NCTE, Stenhouse, Pearson Professional Development books to find a book with the theme you want. Check the book out with me. A rubric for reporting on your book will be found below.

4. Review 2 current professional journals in the field of literacy. One should be research and one practice. Some good research journals are: Reading Research Quarterly, Journal of Literacy Research, Research in the Teaching of English, The Literacy Research Association Yearbook. Some practical journals are Reading Teacher, Language Arts, Young Children, Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy. A rubric is found to outline your review

5. Select one of the following to present online in a video with a written outline. This will be presented the last time we meet. Select a topic of interest

a. . Coach a teacher and video the session. Describe the purpose of the coaching. Provide the coaching. At another time have the teacher put the lesson into practice. Have a reflective discussion. Include what happened before the coaching, what did the coaching look like what happened after?

b. Visit a classroom and observe what you see that is good and what you would improve. Look at the environment, the organization and management, the types of teaching that takes place, (whole group, small group, one on one). Describe what you believe was good teaching and discuss what could be improved.

c. Make a tutorial video for a type of reading or writing lesson that would take the place of coaching. Provide a lesson plan and a video of the lesson. The lesson could be about any aspect of literacy instruction.

d. Describe the characteristics of a good workshop or series of workshops. Make a lesson plan or plans for the session. Do a half hour workshop that exemplifies what a teacher would enjoy and learn from.

e. Plan a professional conference. Select a theme for it, and a design of the day. List the titles of the workshops and speakers. Plan how the day is organized, including food, breaks, etc. Think of all aspects that will make it a good conference.

Preferences:

Please type work on one side of the page on your papers

Do not put any type of cover on your paper.

For the most part we will hand in papers in person, if necessary they can be sent in online

Follow my directions on papers with headings etc. I will provide directions for all assignments and rubrics for grading

I will provide due dates

Rubric for chapter Reports for Discussion Directors When it is your turn

1. Chapter Title and Summary. Type one page that summarizes the major theme of the chapter. Do not write a page by page or fact by fact presentation. It is assumed it has been read by everyone. You are looking to write the main ideas. (30)
2. Reflect upon one element in the chapter that is an issue about policy, practice or research, that is of interest to you, controversial for you, and tell why in one page. (25)
3. Pose a question to the class for discussion about a concern or issue and questions for future study of the area that students will respond to. This must be different from #2. Half a page (20)
4. The report as outlined above is well written, poses reflective and interesting thoughts and ideas. **There are references to conferences, experiences and readings in the course that are relevant.** (25)

Chapter reports will be graded as they are posted.

Rubric for Each Conference Attended

1. Write a one page summary of the entire event. Where was the conference, who sponsored it? Describe the setting, topics discussed, and choices if there were choices. (20)
2. Summarize the contents of the speaker or speakers you listened to. If it is more than one speaker write a half page about each. If it is one speaker write one page about the presentation. (25)
3. Reflect upon one or two elements about policy, practice or research, that was of interest to you, controversial for you, and tell why in one page. (25)
4. Was the conference worthwhile, why or why not? (10)
5. The report as outlined above is well written, poses reflective and interesting thoughts and ideas. **There are references to conferences, experiences and readings in the course that are relevant.** (20)

During the semester post when you have a conference report so we can start talk about them.

Rubric for your Book Report.

1. Write a two page report that summarizes each chapter in a short paragraph. This should take no more than three pages. (25)
2. Convince us why we should read the book by reflecting on the ideas that caused you to question or become interested in the ideas presented. One page (25)
3. What are you likely to do in your classroom because you read this book? How will it change your practice? One page (25)
4. The report as outlined above is well written, poses reflective and interesting thoughts and ideas. **There are references to conferences, experiences and readings in the course that are relevant.** (25)

This will be due for the last session to report on verbally and hand in the report.

Post book reports by Jan. 15th

Rubric for Reviewing Journals

Review 2 current professional journals in the field of literacy. One should be research and one practice. Some good research journals are: Reading Research Quarterly, Journal of Literacy Research, Research in the Teaching of English, The Literacy Research Association Yearbook. Some practical journals are Reading Teacher, Language Arts, Young Children, Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy. Follow the rubric below. First review the practical article and then the research.

1. Describe the research journal and the practical journal in one page each. Include the type of contents, advertisements, etc. that are found in the periodical (20)

2. Read one article in each journal that is of interest to you. Summarize the articles in one page each (25)

3. In a half page for each article describe what you found interesting or controversial. (20)

4. What will you act upon that you read about in the articles and in what way. Half page each (20)

5. The report as outlined above is well written, poses reflective and interesting thoughts and ideas. **There are references to conferences, experiences and readings in the course that are relevant.** (15)

Post your journal reports, by Dec. 27th. Everyone respond to each others within in three days.

That will be 4 discussions per person.

