

Innovative Evidence-Based Reading Comprehension

Grades 4 – 5
A Content-Focused Coaching® Course



What should teachers expect?

The University of Pittsburgh's Institute for Learning (IFL) developed this innovative, online program to help teachers improve student reading comprehension.

- Teachers participate in an eight-week online workshop, collaborating with their peers in the development of lesson plans to employ the evidence-based practices of Accountable Talk® and Questioning the Author that deepen student understanding of text.
- Teachers receive follow on one-on-one coaching from highly qualified IFL-trained coaches who observe teachers implementing those practices in the classroom.
- Teachers attend the workshop and the follow on coaching sessions online using the technologies that are already in their hands.
- Teachers have achieved improved student test scores as a result of Content-Focused Coaching®.

**INSTITUTE for
LEARNING**
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

"Even though [the program] was a lot of work, it definitely has helped me become a better teacher. And the way I looked at comprehension is so totally different than I did stepping into the classroom in September."

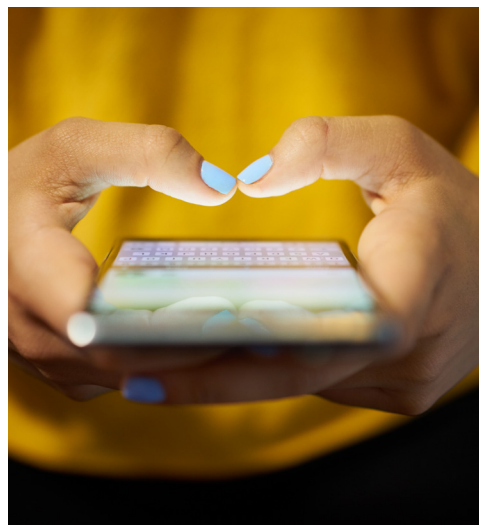
– 4th Grade Teacher

"This program made you look at the way that you were teaching, made you look at instruction, and made you look at the questions that you were asking, and made you look at student engagement, and if they're really learning."

– 5th Grade Teacher

Value to Districts

- Teachers guided by expert coach.
- Teachers develop agency and expertise.
- Students develop deep understanding of text.
- Reading comprehension test scores improve.
- Program is evidence-based.
- Coaching is job-embedded and classroom-focused.




Dialogex™
Collaborative Professional Development
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Phone 580-248-0321
Email info@dialogex.org

Engaging teachers in a Content-Focused Coaching® experience, facilitated by university-level coaches, using the technologies that teachers use every day.

Why Content-Focused Coaching?

IFL's Content-Focused Coaching® model guides teachers through intensive in-classroom professional development. It is an evidence-based approach that supports teachers' adoption of more engaging instructional techniques.

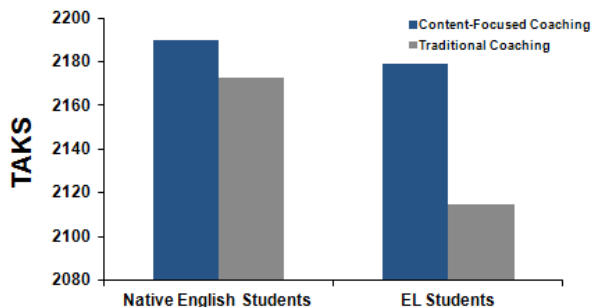
- The model maximizes the coach's role as an instructional support for teachers in a content area.
- It has proven effective "at improving reading comprehension instruction and students' reading achievement in high-poverty elementary schools" (Matsumura, Garnier, & Spybrook, 2013)
- Evidence shows that it improves student test scores, especially among English Learners.

Will the schedule be flexible?

- Teachers work when their schedules permit.
- The workshop requires 3–4 hours per week for 8 weeks.
- Coaching requires 3–4 hours per week. The coach and the teacher arrange convenient times to meet online.

Week 1	Talk That Supports Reading Comprehension
Week 2	Accountable Talk for Thinking and Reasoning
Week 3	Developing a Vision for the <i>Questioning the Author</i> Approach
Week 4	Planning for Discussions of Literary Texts
Week 5	Planning for Discussion of Informational Texts
Week 6	Orchestrating <i>Accountable Talk</i> ®
Week 7	Using Cognitively Demanding Questions to Further Student Thinking
Week 8	Introduction to Coaching
Weeks 9 & 10	First Content-Focused Coaching® Cycle
Weeks 11 & 12	Second Content-Focused Coaching® Cycle

Instructional Coaching Study



Matsumura, L.C., Garnier, H.E., & Spybrook, J. (2013). Literacy coaching to improve student reading achievement: A multi-level mediation model. *Learning and Instruction*, 25, 35-48.

How secure is the online technology?

Data privacy is reinforced with a secure, high-availability solution that has supported the needs of Fortune 500 clients, as well as clients in the US Department of Defense, for twenty years.

This program addresses school districts' concerns over the high cost of maintaining content-specific coaching staffs. It is an evidence-based solution for helping school districts provide teachers with the critical skills and knowledge to measurably advance instructional practices and elevate student outcomes.

Districts that have implemented Content-Focused Coaching

AUSTIN, TX

CLEVELAND, OH

GRAND RAPIDS, MI

LOS ANGELES, CA

PITTSBURGH, PA

BRIDGEPORT, CT

DENVER, CO

GUILFORD, CT

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

PROVIDENCE, RI

CHAPEL HILL, NC

EL PASO, TX

HARTFORD, CT

NEW YORK, NY

STATE OF TENNESSEE