

### **Course Description**

This course will explore how the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) approach literacy in new and important ways. Participants will see a strong emphasis on literacy as a means for improving critical thinking skills. They will discover that the CCSS have unique reading and writing standards for literacy in history/social studies for grades 6-12. Through video examples, in-depth readings, and downloadable applications, participants will learn practical ways to put CCSS to work in your classroom.

### **Course Objectives**

- Define literacy and the Common Core State Standards and explain why they are important.
- Understand the need for literacy skills in all content areas.
- Identify ways that classroom teachers can embrace the Common Core Standards to improve 21st century literacy in their classrooms.
- Understand what text complexity is and how it's determined.
- Articulate the significance of text complexity in developing 21st century literacy.
- Incorporate new text selection criteria and a focus on complex texts into your classroom.
- Understand the connection between history/social studies text features and comprehension skills.
- Use literacy strategies to improve history/social studies reading and comprehension as expressed in common core state standards.
- Learn how language, speaking, and listening skills contribute to strong reasoning and analytical skills in the history/social studies context.
- Use literacy strategies in language, speaking, and listening to increase logical reasoning, argument, and analysis in history/social studies.
- Understand the role that reflection and writing play in improving reasoning, argument, and analysis skills in a history/social studies context.
- Incorporate literacy strategies in reflection and writing to increase reasoning, argument, and analysis in history/social studies.
- Identify literacy problems for students who struggle with reading for a variety of reasons.
- Develop strategies that help special needs students' develop literacy.