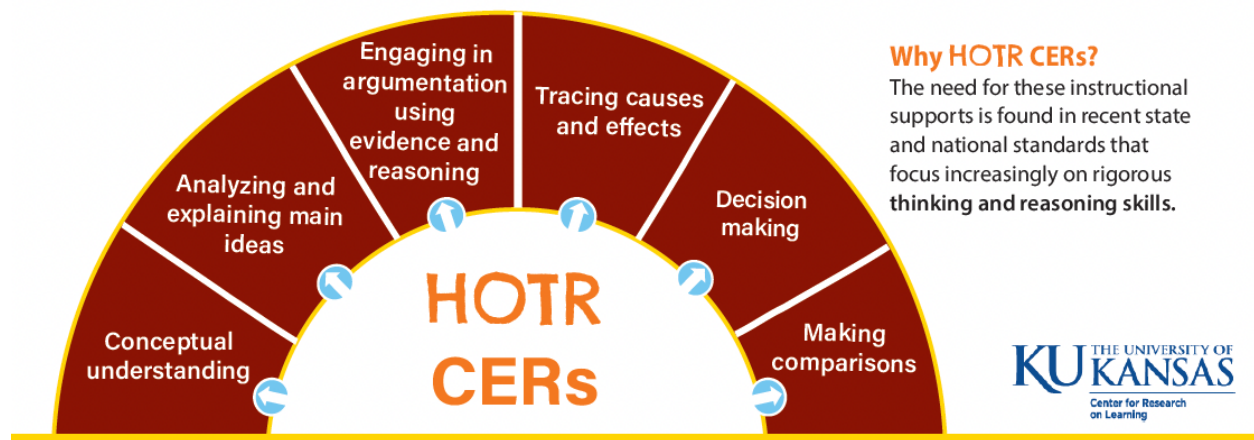


## Featured Article: Higher Order Thinking and Reasoning (HOTR)

by Jan Bulgren, Research Professor Emeritus



**Question:** “*REASONING? Well, how often do we even need to use reasoning in our lives anyway?*”

**Answer:** “*Well, how often do we all hear QUESTIONS like these?*”, “*Why do you think that?*”, “*Why did that happen?*”, “*Why did you choose that one?*”, or “*Can you prove that?*”

The fact is that we all use reasoning—or ask others to use reasoning—every day. However, sometimes we don’t have all the tools we need to answer those questions, that is, a way to make connections and identify the exact type of reasoning needed. For example, we can make connections to understand what type of reasoning is asked for:

- “Why did that happen?” is asking about *causes*.
- “Why did you choose that one?” is asking about *comparisons*.

- “Can you prove that?” is asking about *evidence and reasoning in an argument*.

Higher Order Thinking and Reasoning (HOTR) routines are the

answer. [Click here to read the full article](#)

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## Top 5 SIM Achievements in 2023 (Slides)

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### SIM News

- **New Adolescent Literacy Leadership Course** - Typically, around February, schools begin planning for the next school year: analyzing data, considering new initiatives, selecting new evidence-based practices, planning for professional learning, etc. If you are supporting a team or teams of decision-makers through this planning process, you may like to participate in this opportunity. Three experienced SIM Professional Developers are co-facilitating a six-week online course (meet once per week for 90 minutes each session) to guide teams through key planning decisions. **As a SIM Professional Developer, this course could complement your work and assist with planning for and engaging stakeholders in the conversation to support adolescent literacy instruction.** [Check out this flyer and webpage for more details](#), and email [simpd@ku.edu](mailto:simpd@ku.edu) if you'd like to watch the recording of the informational webinar from Nov. 14th.

**Supporting Adolescent Literacy for Successful School Change**

**A SIX-PART BLENDED LEARNING COURSE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT SCHOOL TEAMS**

**The Innovation - Strategic Instruction Model**  
Literacy learning in the secondary classroom has become increasingly important for students' school and future success. This course prepares educators to strategically and thoughtfully plan for successful change by using a school team approach to systematically address adolescent literacy program implementation and dramatically impact teacher and student performance.


**The Participants**  
Teams consist of individuals from schools or districts who are in a position to use data to make informed decisions.

- District Curriculum Directors
- Special Education Directors, Interventionists
- School Administrators, School Improvement Team Members
- Literacy Coaches, Consultants

**The Course Experience**  
The course consists of synchronous virtual group sessions paired with independent asynchronous study assignments offered through the Canvas Learning Management System. Resources include handouts, articles, website references, and videos. Continuing Education Credits and Micro-credentials will be available.

**The Course Content**  
The six units contained in the course will address the critical components of adolescent literacy and school change.

- Unit 1 - The "Why" of Successful School Change
- Unit 2 - Developing Infrastructure
- Unit 3 - The Plan-Do-Study-Act Cycle, Part 1
- Unit 4 - The Plan-Do-Study-Act Cycle, Part 2
- Unit 5 - Professional Development
- Unit 6 - The Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) as an Agent of School Change



**KU** Center for Research on Learning

**AT A GLANCE**

**SCHEDULE**

- Teams of 3 to 7 individuals
- 6 consecutive weeks
- 90-minute virtual synchronous meetings
- Asynchronous activity assignments

**LEARN MORE**

- **Registration** - register for an informational webinar or sign up for the course
- **Questions** - [simpd@ku.edu](mailto:simpd@ku.edu)

**SIM**  
Strategic Instruction Model

- **New SIM Story Corps** - [Becoming a Better Teacher with SIM, Janet Atallah and Bonnie Palasak](#)



## SIM Resources & Reminders

We have a New SIM Overview Video - [feel free to share!](#)



Links to new brochures:

- [SIM Overview Brochure](#)
- [SIM Learning Strategies Brochure](#)
  - [Writing Strategies Brochure](#)
- [SIM Content Enhancement Routine Brochure](#)
  - [Higher Order Thinking and Reasoning Brochure](#)
- [SIM Math Strategies Brochure](#)

Reminders:

- [Update your StrateDirectory information](#)
- [Report the SIM PD work you did over the summer](#)

## SIM in the Field

- **This semester we hosted a free webinar series for active SIM Professional developers on the *Decision-Making Routine*.** We hope to do more events like this in the future, so be on the lookout in the Upcoming Events section of *StrateNotes* and online.
- **New Publications from the SIM Network:**
  - **Bulgren, J., Minarik, D., & Washburn, J. (2024).** Higher order thinking and reasoning through primary source document analysis. In S. Waring (Ed.), *Teaching with primary sources for cultural understanding, civic mindedness, and democracy* (pp. 47-63). Teachers College Press.

- **O'Brien C., Boudah D.J.,** Lopuch J., and Nance A. (2023). How do we best support adolescents with low academic performance and learning disabilities in the era of pandemic learning loss? The importance of intensive learning strategy interventions. *Front. Educ.* 8:1215007. doi: 10.3389/educ.2023.1215007
- Sroka, Matt (Host). (2023, Nov. 15). Connective Literacies with **Dr. Jocelyn Washburn and Dr. Suzanne Myers**. In *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy Podcast*. <https://open.spotify.com/episode/7aiZf2n1Omk6pwVw22ALmB?si=j5yRcZhTZaGlgQzfQAkSw>
- Waitoller, Federico & **Lindo, Endia**. (2023). Publishing in Exceptional Children, A Conversation with Endia Lindo and Kathleen King Thorius. 10.13140/RG.2.2.31605.14565.

## Upcoming SIM Events:

- **Jan. - Feb., 2024** - [Winter Virtual SIM Update Conference](#)
- **Feb. - Mar., 2024** - [Adolescent Literacy Leadership Course](#)

**SIM Online PD Classes** for educators (self-paced courses on Canvas, with follow-up coaching session):

- [Framing Routine](#)
- [Fundamentals of Paraphrasing and Summarizing Strategy](#)
- [Possible Selves Strategy](#) (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition)
- [Sentence Writing Strategies](#) (Fundamentals and Proficiency)
- [Unit Organizer Routine](#)

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