



# **LINKING ADOLESCENT LITERACY TO CONTENT ENHANCEMENT**

## **LEARNING MORE ABOUT WHAT THE EXPERTS AND RESEARCH SAY ABOUT LITERACY INSTRUCTION AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL**

Another important function of the Literacy Leadership Team is to better understand and teach literacy strategies at the secondary level. With the increased complexity of text and abstract ideas found in secondary textbooks, consider the tremendous support needed for teacher instruction and intervention to help struggling readers not only acquire the content but the critical thinking skills needed to process that content. The Literacy Leadership Team can increase awareness by their staff for the need to better understand their role in teaching specific literacy strategies to help students read and comprehend their discipline's written materials. Direct and guided literacy instruction are needed beyond the elementary level, so students cannot only continue to read narrative texts but can acquire specific strategies to understand expository and descriptive text. Becoming aware of teaching routines that go beyond simply providing notes or giving students facts is essential if the school's goal is to create independent, literate learners.

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### PROCEDURE

**Step 1:** Explain that the purpose of the activity is to increase their knowledge about effective literacy strategies that can be taught explicitly through the use of Content Enhancement Routines.

**Step 2:** Have each participant read the excerpt, “Learn More About It: What the Experts and Research Say About Intervention Programs,” from Creating a Culture of Literacy: A Guide for Middle and High School Principals, (NASSP, 2005) pages 62 - 64.

**Step 3:** In partnerships, discuss how the five effective content-area literacy strategies can be made explicit during the teaching of Content Enhancement Routines. Share ideas with whole team.

## AN ACTIVITY THAT CAN INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF SIM

It is critical that a SIM Professional Developer or someone very knowledgeable about CER lead this session. This activity is meant to deepen the understanding of the use of CERs to increase student literacy skills.

Purpose of activity: To take a deeper look at how CE Routines build literacy skills and higher level thinking skills of adolescent learners.

Time to allow for activity: 45 – 60 minutes

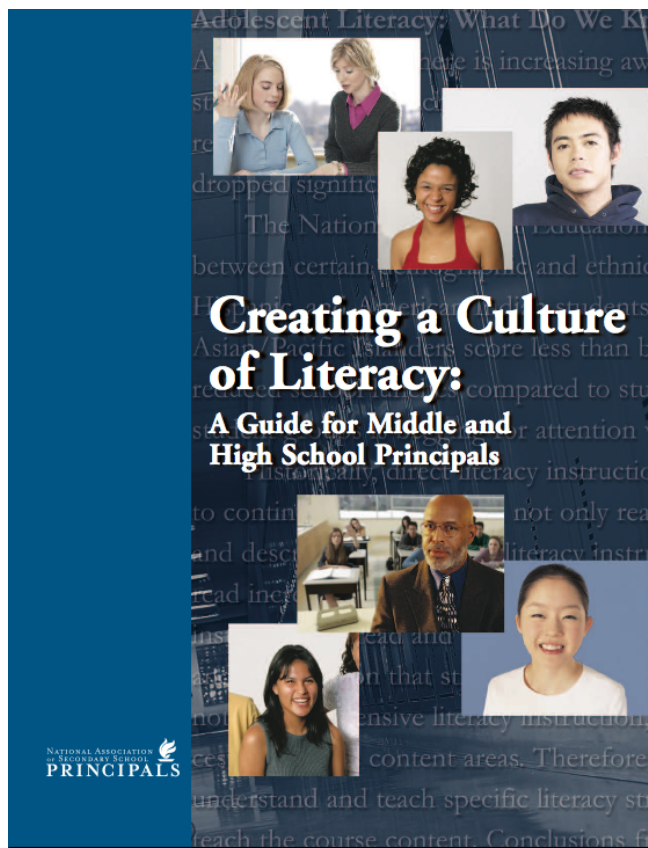
Materials needed: Content Enhancement Guidebook, excerpt from Creating a Culture of Literacy (NASSP), and CE Literacy Slides



**Step 4:** Project the Content Enhancement Literacy Slides to facilitate further discussion about how literacy strategies are embedded in CERs, how these strategies can be made more explicit to students and how teacher design of a CER activity can be expanded to include more of the literacy strategies identified. (Downloadable at SIMVILLE)

**Step 5:** Have participants read the “Go!” section of their Content Enhancement Guidebook to find additional ways to increase their effective use of the routine and to increase the literacy skills of their students through creative uses of the routine.

**Step 6:** Develop a presentation to share how CERs can be used to explicitly teach effective literacy strategies and how their creative use can build in multiple effective strategies.



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