Common Core and Literacy Strategies: Science

In *Common Core and Literacy Strategies: Science*, you’ll explore how the Common Core State Standards approach literacy in new and important ways. You will see a new emphasis on critical-thinking skills in the area of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Through video examples, in-depth readings, and downloadable application activities, you’ll learn practical ways to put the standards to work in your classroom.

**Course Objectives**

After completing this course, you should be able to

**Module 1**

- Define literacy and the Common Core State Standards and identify their importance.
- Understand the need for literacy skills in all content areas.
- Identify ways that classroom teachers can embrace the Common Core State Standards to improve 21st century literacy in their classrooms.

**Module 2**

- Understand what text complexity is and how it is 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.
Module 3
- Describe the connection between text comprehension and a deep understanding of scientific concepts.
- Use literacy strategies to improve scientific reading, as expressed in the Common Core State Standards.

Module 4
- Explain how language, speaking, and listening skills contribute to critical thinking in science.
- Use literacy strategies in language, speaking, and listening to increase scientific understanding.

Module 5
- Understand the role that reflection and writing play in improving reasoning, argument, and analysis skills.
- Incorporate literacy strategies in reflection and writing to increase reasoning, argument, and analysis skills.

Module 6
- Identify literacy problems for students who struggle with reading for a variety of reasons.
- Develop strategies that help special needs students develop literacy.
# Course Syllabus

## Module 1
**What Is the Common Core and Why Do We Need It?**

- **Module Welcome**
  - Media: Common Core 101
  - Reading: *Educational Leadership*—Building on the Common Core
  - Extend Your Learning: Lily Eskelsen
  - Reading: Literacy and the Common Core State Standards
  - Video: Literacy in Other Disciplines
  - Reading: *Educational Leadership*—Reading Through a Disciplinary Lens

- **Check for Understanding**
  - Application: Observe Literacy in Another Content Area

- **Module Journal**

## Module 2
**Focusing on Complex Texts**

- **Module Welcome**
  - Video: Introduction to Text Complexity
  - Reading: Understanding Text Complexity
  - Reading: *Educational Leadership*—Too Dumb for Complex Texts

- **Check for Understanding 1**
  - Video: The Gettysburg Address: A Curricular Exemplar in Literacy
  - Video: Save the Last Word for Me

- **Check for Understanding 2**
  - Application: Choosing and Using Complex Texts

- **Module Journal**
### Module 3
**Literacy Strategies I: Text Features and Comprehension**

Module Welcome
- Reading: *Educational Leadership*—Making Science Real
- Reading: Fostering Deep Comprehension in the Classroom
- Video: Pre-reading Strategy: Story Impressions

Check for Understanding 1
- Video: During-Reading Strategy: Insert Note Taking
- Reading: *Educational Leadership*—Summarizing to Comprehend
- Reading: *Educational Leadership*—Teaching Reading in Mathematics and Science

Check for Understanding 2
- Application: Comprehension Lesson Plan

Module Journal

### Module 4
**Literacy Strategies II: Language, Speaking, and Listening**

Module Welcome
- Video: SHIFT 6: Academic Vocabulary
- Reading: Developing Language Skills in Science
- Reading: *Educational Leadership*—Where Literacy and Science Intersect

Check for Understanding 1
- Video: Teaching Vocabulary
- Reading: Developing Speaking and Listening Skills in Science
- Video: Speaking and Listening: The Key Role of Evidence
- Reading: *Educational Leadership*—Thinking Is Literacy, Literacy Thinking
- Video: Collaboration and Debate

Check for Understanding 2
- Application: Discussion Web

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Resources

ASCD. (2002). Reading in the content areas: Prereading strategies [DVD]. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.

ASCD. (2002). Reading in the content areas: During-reading strategies [DVD]. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.


