PLC on Improving Reading Instruction in Print Skills

PLC Description and Overview:

The *PLC on Improving Reading Instruction in Print Skills* is a six-week blend of asynchronous online work and weekly, synchronous virtual meetings. This PLC is designed to help adult educators, teaching at any level, improve their understanding of alphabetics, fluency, and the role these skills play in overall reading comprehension. The PLC is taught through the [Virginia Commonwealth University's Blackboard learning management system](#) and Zoom. Completion of the PLC is designed to require 27 hours of your time - approximately four and a half hours per week. However, you may find that you want to spend longer on some topics. In order to receive a certificate for participating in the *PLC on Improving Reading Instruction in Print Skills*, you must complete all assignments and attend the weekly PLC virtual meetings. The PLC week runs Thursday through Wednesday, and all assignments are due by midnight on Monday so facilitators and other participants can review work before the weekly PLC meeting.

There is no required textbook for this PLC; however, each week will have a resource section with articles, links, and other materials you may find useful for this class and your future teaching. It is a good idea to bookmark or save these resources as you go along so you can access them after the PLC has been closed.

Weekly Format:

Lessons are sequential, and each week will follow a similar format. Included in each week is:

- A video with most of the lesson content. There will also be a transcript available if you prefer a printed copy of the lesson. However, charts, diagrams, and images will not be in the transcript, so it is a good idea to watch the video and follow along with the transcript.
- A weekly, virtual PLC meeting
- Additional content following the video, usually with links for you to explore in order to complete activities.
- A resource section containing links mentioned in the lesson as well as a section containing additional web links and articles.
- A section for assignments and *Discussion Board* topics.

PLC Requirements

Because the PLC is designed for busy professionals, it is scheduled over several weeks to allow time to work through the materials and complete the weekly work according to your schedule. However, each participant is expected to attend the virtual PLC meeting each week. If you are unable to attend a virtual PLC meeting, please notify a facilitator as soon as possible. If you miss more than one virtual PLC meeting, you may be removed from the PLC. Therefore, it is important to you and to the learning community that you have reviewed your personal and work schedule and have made the time available to commit to your learning and professional growth. It is expected that the PLC will require about four and half hours per week.

You must have consistent and reliable Internet access to participate in this PLC.

In order to receive a certificate of completion, you must complete and submit all assignments, including the *Discussion Board* questions, and attend the virtual PLC meetings each week.

Remember that, although you will gain from doing the activities, you will learn most from discussions with your online colleagues and facilitator(s). To keep our discussions as productive as possible, please stay within the timeframe outlined for this PLC. You may refer to the PLC timeline for specific dates.

Many of you have already taken an online course/PLC offered by the Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center. However, even if you are a seasoned veteran of online learning, it may help you to refer back to "Tips for Success", "Resource Center Commitments" and "Online Learner Agreement" in the preregistration tutorial and document. This provides tips and expectations for being a good online learner, how to participate in the online discussions, an overview of online learning "netiquette," how to navigate the PLC, and other great tips for learning online.

Learning Outcomes:

What you will be learning.	How you will express and demonstrate that learning.
● How the different reading components, other than comprehension, affect a reading profile	● Ongoing discussion and reflection through *Discussion Board* topics and PLC meetings
● What alphabetic skills are and how they play a role in overall reading comprehension	● Creation of an alphabetics activity

● The different components of fluency and how they play a role in overall reading comprehension	● Creation of a fluency activity
● How to create activities and lesson plans for learners at any level that include print skills components	● Conducting assessments in the areas of alphabetics and fluency ● Creation of a lesson plan targeted for specific skill gaps that includes both alphabetics and fluency practice

PLC Schedule:

Each lesson addresses a different aspect of reading. PLC activities include readings, assignments, and discussions during virtual meetings each week. The lessons are developmental and sequential. The schedule below lists the dates that assignments are due. Posts to discussions may be made at any time within the week in which the topic is being presented. Please be sure to adhere to the schedule. Lessons are self-paced within the week; however, all work should be finished by Monday at midnight in preparation for PLC meetings on Wednesday. Return as often as you wish to the activities and discussions.

*Please note that in week 5 you will be assessing a learner. Please be mindful of this requirement and begin to think about a learner you can work with. It would be a good idea to begin to build a relationship with a learner, if you do not already have a working relationship with one. If you are in a situation that limits your ability to work with learners, please let your facilitator(s) know as soon as possible. More discussion about this will happen during the week 1 PLC meeting.

Week #	Lessons	Assignments	Due Date
Week 1:	Introduction to *Foundations of Reading: Print Skills*	1. Introduce yourself in Building Our Online Community. 2. Fill in the K and W columns of your KWL chart. 3. Share your KWL chart with your technical facilitator. 4. Select an article to read. 5. Post a one sentence summary of your article or a question you had about the article. 6. Attend weekly PLC virtual meeting.	**Mon:** PLC on Wed

Week 2:	Alphabetics	1. Submit a resource to the Foundations of Reading: Print Skills Resources spreadsheet. 2. Design an alphabetics activity & post it on the *Discussion Board*. 3. Attend weekly PLC meeting. 4. Update your KWL.	**Mon:** PLC on Wed
Week 3:	Fluency	1. Watch assessment videos and be ready to discuss at PLC meeting. 2. Create a fluency activity and post it on the *Discussion Board*. 3. Attend weekly PLC meeting. 4. Update your KWL. 5. Add an additional resource to the spreadsheet.	**Mon:** PLC on Wed
Week 4:	Assessments	1. Post assessment plans on the *Discussion Board* 2. Attend weekly PLC meeting. 3. Update your KWL. 4. Add an additional resource to the spreadsheet.	**Mon:** PLC on Wed
Week 5	Assessments Continued	1. Conduct assessments with a learner and post analysis on *Discussion Board*. 2. Attend weekly PLC meeting. 3. Add an additional resource to the spreadsheet. 4. Update your KWL.	**Mon:** PLC on Wed
Week 6:	Lesson Planning, Evaluation, and Farewell	1. Create a lesson plan based on the needs of the learner you assessed in Week 5. 2. Attend weekly PLC meeting. 3. Add an additional resource to the spreadsheet. 4. In the *Discussion Board*, post a reflection about your time in the course. 5. Update your KWL	**Mon:** PLC on Wed

Student Expectations:

In order to receive a certificate of completion, you must submit all assignments on time and attend all weekly PLC virtual meetings. Remember that although you will benefit from doing the activities, you will learn most from discussions with your online colleagues and facilitator(s). To keep discussions as productive as possible, please make sure all weekly coursework is done prior to the weekly PLC virtual meeting. You may refer to the *Schedule*, *Syllabus*, or *Calendar* for specific dates. In order to stay on track, be sure to check your weekly progress in *the Grade Center*.

Discussion Board Posts:

Discussion Board posts will be minimal, as most discussion will take place during the weekly PLC virtual meeting. However, each week will require a post; refer to the weekly schedule for topics.

Please do not create your own thread when responding to *Discussion Board* questions. All that is needed is to click the *reply* button.

Participants who do not post to the *Discussion Board* within the first week, or miss more than one PLC meeting, will be removed from the PLC. This will then place you on "waiting list only" status for future online courses/PLCs and trainings.

If you do not participate for more than one week at any time during the PLC, or if you fall more than one week behind in your assignments, you may be removed from the PLC and will be placed on "waiting list only" status for future online courses/PLCs. If you find that you cannot post for more than two weeks, please contact your technical facilitator at valrccourses@vcu.edu or 1-800-237-0178 as soon as possible to discuss the situation and your further participation in the PLC.