



# It's A Demanding World: Improving Academic Literacy for Adolescents

Building Academic Literacy in Secondary Classrooms:  
Text Comprehension

**Improving Academic Literacy for Adolescents (Day 2)**  
**Eastern Suffolk BOCES**

**April 28, 2011**

**Presenter: Stephen Bongiovi**

# Welcome back!

## Sharing our experience

How did you apply your knowledge of writing and instructional strategies in your school setting?

# Welcome back!

- Let's Review-
- ...content area literacy instruction must be a cornerstone of any movement to build high-quality secondary schools that young people deserve and on which the nation's social and economic health will depend.

• Heller & Greenleaf(2007), p.1

# Recommendations for improving literacy-related instruction

- Provide explicit instruction and support practice in the use of effective comprehension strategies
- Increase the amount and quality of open, sustained discussion of reading content
- Set and maintain high standards for text, conversation, questions, and vocabulary

# Recommendations<sub>(continued)</sub>

- Increase student motivation and engagement with reading
- Teach essential knowledge so that all students master critical concepts

● Torgesen, et al (2007)

Question #1-

**DID YOU DO  
YOUR  
HOMEWORK???**

# The “Questions to Consider” were

- What resources or supports will you need to do this? How can you get the support you need?
- What one action step will you take to bring this information to others in your school?
- Are you willing to document and share the results with us at the next session?

(in other words, today!)

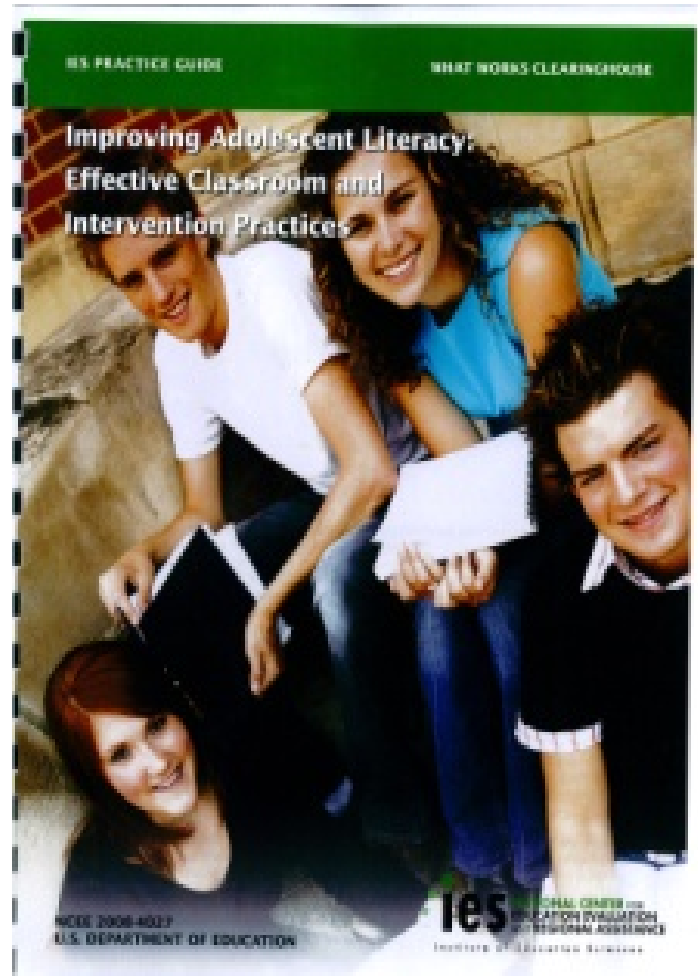
# Goals for Today's Session

- To investigate strategies to strengthen comprehension skills of secondary school students
- To support the literacy skills of all students by incorporating comprehension practice and strategies into content-focused instruction
- To build participants' knowledge of comprehension instructional strategies

# Who Is Here?

- Administrators
- Teachers
- Learning Specialists
- Support Staff
- BOCES Educators

# Foundational Document 1



# A Walk Through “Doing What Works”

- [URL:http://dww.ed.gov](http://dww.ed.gov)
- Research-based education practices online
- “We make it easy to find research-based practices.”
- “Our mission is to translate research-based practices into practical tools to improve classroom instruction.”

# A Treasure Chest of Practices Best

- **Content Area Literacy Guide**-a component of CCSSO's Adolescent Literacy Toolkit
- Provided by Public Consulting Group's Center for Resource Management in partnership with the Council of Chief State School Officers
- August 2007

# A Selection of Strategies

- **QAR-Question-Answer Relationship**
- **Paired Reading-Structured Read-Aloud**
- **Quick Write-2 to 10 minute Written Response to open-ended question(s)**

# What About These?

- **High School English Lesson Plan- Poetry:**
- with an explanation of **Visualization** and **Save the Last Word for Me**
- **High School English Lesson Plan- Analyzing Essays:** with an explanation of **Coding**

# Possible Protocols for Professional Development

- Doing What Works
- Content Area Literacy Guide
- IES Practice Guide-Improving Adolescent Literacy:Effective Classroom and Intervention Practices

# Questions to Consider

- What audiences in your district can benefit from the information and activities of our two days together?
- Who will be the most effective turnkey trainer for those audiences?
- What Professional Development possibilities, protocols and/or materials provide the most promise for your home district's situation?

# References

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- Thank You for your professionalism, collegiality and participation.