6-12 Morphology Course Companion

Literacy Academy on Demand

The Course Companion is designed to allow participants to capture notes, reflections and action steps as they work through a course. Additionally, the Course Companion contains a list of all extra resources listed in the course. Each section of the Course Companion is linked to a corresponding section of the course.

Morphology is the study of word forms, including the rules by which words are formed.

Consider this Scenario

Mr. Stevens has been working with his 9th grade history class on learning about different systems of government that have emerged over the last few centuries. One of the things he noticed is that many of his students struggle to understand the texts he has had them read, especially when they contain complex words that are unique to the study of history and government. He has tried explicit vocabulary instruction including word introduction, providing student-friendly definitions, giving examples and non-examples and checking for student understanding. This helped him to teach a number of tier 3 words. However, students are still struggling to fluently read texts and comprehend what they read.

Can you relate to the scenario? In what ways are your challenges in literacy instruction similar or different?

What is Morphology?

Notes:

Dr. Diana Townsend Video #1 - What is Morphology?

Notes:

Dr. Diana Townsend Video #2 - Why Teach Morphology?

Notes:

Resources and Strategies for Teaching Morphology

Notes:

Course Reflection:

Reflect on your learning. What are two or three things that you learned during the course that helped you to better understand the importance of morphology in literacy instruction?

What else to you **need to learn** before you can fully implement morphology into your instruction?

What are two or three **action steps** that you can take to start implementing morphology into your work?

The following resources are listed in the course:

- NCTE provides a List of morphemes that are common across content areas
- These Word Webs from Literacy How can help you to demonstrate the inter-connectedness of words
- You can build your own mini-matrices on the Mini Matrix-Maker Edit Page
- **From the Ohio Literacy Academy 2019:** Word Smarts- Using Morphology Bases & Affixes to Develop Vocabulary Skills presented by William Van Cleave (video; handout)