**6-12 Explicit Vocabulary Instruction**

**Literacy Academy on Demand**

This 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.

**Consider this Scenario:**

*Mr. Tillman is an eighth-grade social studies teacher who is working on a new unit in American history. Over the last few months, he has introduced his students to dozens of new, complex vocabulary words. He typically gives them a worksheet at the beginning of a unit, asks them to look up the definition in their textbook or on the internet, and quizzes them on the words at least once before the exam. While some students seem to get the meanings of the words through this process, Mr. Tillman notices that many students either do not understand key words and concepts or use the terms in very superficial ways. He wants to find a more effective way to teach vocabulary while still maintaining the pace of their learning, but he is not sure exactly what to do.*

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

**Joan Sedita Video: Explicit Vocabulary Instruction in Middle and High School**

Notes:

**Resources:**

The IES Practice Guide, Improving Adolescent Literacy: Effective Classroom and Intervention Practices, provides several recommendations to strengthen literacy instruction for adolescents. Read the section ["Recommendation 1. Provide Explicit Vocabulary Instruction"](https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/PracticeGuide/adlit_pg_082608.pdf#page=17) to learn more about the importance of vocabulary and ways to incorporate it into classroom instruction.

* Consider the recommendations from the Practice Guide related to vocabulary instruction. What can you incorporate in your classroom or building? What are some potential barriers to implementation?

**Course Reflection:**

* Consider your learning from this course and your current approach to vocabulary instruction. Which of your current approaches are affirmed by the course? Which approaches might you want to revise or add?
* What questions do you continue to have about vocabulary instruction? What resources or people might help you to answer these questions?

**The following resources are listed in the course:**

[Explicit Vocabulary Instruction, Grades 6-12: Resources](https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Literacy/Literacy-Academy/Literacy-Academy-on-Demand/Grades-6-12/Explicit-Vocabulary-Instruction/Vocabulary-Resources-Sedita-6-12-1.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US) provides a number of helpful articles, guides and videos to support further learning in explicit vocabulary instruction.