

Course Syllabus

Understanding, Creating and Executing Effective Book Clubs

Description:

In this online course, participants will examine best practices for utilizing a classroom book club model with students. By exploring readings, websites, and multimedia one will garner an understanding of how book clubs can be a powerful way to meet the needs of students in literacy. Participants will learn the importance of allowing student choice in book selection. Participants will learn how to engage students in conversations and effective discussions about books with students facilitating their learning and the teacher guiding the process. Educators will also explore programs such as the Maryland Association of School Librarians Black Eyed Susan program, One Maryland One Book program, and learn how to select books from other vetted national organizations. Educators will engage with best practices for building an inclusive and diverse classroom library and explore ways in which a school or public librarian can assist students with book selection.

Outcomes:

- Participants will explore the foundational components and the research supporting effective book clubs.
- Participants will explore and discuss book club models.
- Participants will define best practices for creating and running book clubs within the classroom and other non-traditional settings.
- Participants will identify and explore Maryland based book clubs such as One Maryland One Book program, Blue Crab, and Black-Eyed Susan book award program.
- Participants will also explore vetted national organizations and curate resources to establish professional teaching networks.
- Participants will engage with best practices for building an inclusive and diverse library.
- Participants will discuss tough conversation approaches and address sensitive teaching topics.
- Participants will identify ways in which a school librarian or local library can assist students with book selection and will demonstrate practical ideas to implement and execute an effective book club

Alignment to Standards:

This workshop meets the standards for content as aligned to the [National School Library Standards For Learners, School Librarians and School Libraries](#), [Maryland Digital Learning Standards for Educators](#), [ITSE Educator standards](#) as well as the [Learning Forward Standards for Professional Learning](#). This workshop meets the standards for Content, Instructional Design and Technology as defined in the National Standards of Quality for Online courses published by Aurora Institute (formally called the iNACOL)

Intended Audience:

This workshop is designed for teachers, curriculum specialists, school librarians, and other school personnel. Participants are expected to have regular access to the internet and email and be proficient with using email and web-browsers.

Week 1 – Book Clubs

Guiding Question: *What is a book club and what models and varieties are available to me as an educator?*

This session will focus on the foundational components and the research supporting book clubs. Learners will explore, discuss and reflect on a variety of book club models and what book clubs can look like in the classroom, library, and in a non-traditional setting such during lunch or afterschool. Learners will also identify and reflect what makes effective discussion groups.

Week 2 – Wide Book Club Reading

Guiding Question: *How can I utilize programs and resources available to me as a teacher/ community member to explore genres and books for my book club selection?*

This session will focus on the MASL Black Eyed Susan book lists, the One Maryland, One Book Program, school wide book clubs and using national lists from several vetted professional awarding organizations. It will also focus on the selection of books and how to introduce tough topics or sensitive topics.

Week 3 – Aligning Book Clubs to Curriculum or Research Topics

Guiding Question: *How can we, as educators work to build inclusive libraries in our classrooms as well as partner with the school librarian to utilize the book club model to enhance student achievement?*

This session will focus on inclusive classroom libraries and how this helps develop background knowledge, inquiry in the content areas, and diverse experiences. Focus will be given to help identify ways one can partner with your school or local librarian to align selections to curriculum and/ or research projects. It will also discuss avenues to cultivate a robust professional network.

Week 4 – Designing Your Book Club

Guiding Question: *What are the best practices for effective book clubs and introducing book clubs to students and guardians?*

This session will focus on ensuring how to create effective discussion questions, various authentic learner-driven activities and an environment that accommodates learner variability. Focus will also be given on how to extend conversations and interests the beyond the book.