

Strategies for Rigor, Relevance and Reading

March 13, 2006

Peter Pappas

Feedback Summary

Total Responses: 126

Grades 6-12

“I found the information to be well researched and found myself challenging some of my old ideas.”

“Challenging the way we’ve been teaching and getting us to see total picture...”

“Gave me some ideas that would expand and enrich student thinking.”

“The most productive and effective in-service I’ve been to since I’ve been in the district.”

“The workshop was down to earth and realistic...The ideas are not pie in the sky...”

“Every teacher, aide present walked away with something new!”

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Found workshop valuable	1%	3%	75%	21%
Found workshop thought-provoking and engaging	1%	1%	71%	27%
Presenter was knowledgeable and well organized	1%	0%	37%	62%
Learned new skills and insights that will be used in classroom	2%	3%	74%	21%

Overarching Themes—

Strengths	Weaknesses	Additional Comments/Insights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presenter –great speaker, engaging, encouraging, realistic, practical, applicable, focused, clear, and organized. ▪ Collaboration with peers – discussion time –time to work with colleagues to create the diagrams or figure out how we are going to implement these strategies so they are common across grade levels and subject areas--departmental and grade-level conversations valuable. ▪ ToolKit & Handouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Timing of Session –should have done this earlier in the year and revisited throughout. ▪ Not enough time to come back together and share thoughts, ideas and ways teachers/department / teams can set goals. ▪ More information on rigor – defining rigor ▪ Relevance: How can these strategies be used in Level I foreign language courses—seems irrelevant? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop schedule to collaborate with department / team on strategies we can use effectively, work together toward a common goal—allow time to pilot and practice. ▪ Administrative Support: provide time / develop schedule for teachers to work in vertical team to discuss structures we want to put in place. ▪ Create format / forum (i.e. electronic) for teachers to share lesson plans, resources and other ideas... way they are incorporating strategies in their content areas. ▪ Difficulty implementing with some of the “other initiatives” --How can/does this fit into other initiatives? Can it be anchored into something we are already doing?

Participant Feedback

Strengths of workshop	Weaknesses of workshop	Classroom impact	Additional Comments
Breakout sessions enabled individual dept. to focus on what is needed; done well in specific schools.	A little too much time for lunch.	Presenter modeled strategies that I can use immediately in my classroom	
It was practical.	Not enough time to come to a set of goals.	I will use many of the strategies in my classroom.	Thank you for bringing Pappas into our school.
Good speaker; ideas that I can use in my classroom. I liked the breakout group idea.	none	Numerous ideas to use in my classroom. Workshop helped motivate me to look at another way to teach my lessons. How can I make this lesson better? Especially in summarizing my classes at the end of the block.	
Use of examples/breakout sessions.	Large room.	Implementing some new strategies.	Great information.
Time to collaborate with others to discuss some of the issues presented.	Difficulties with implementing some of the tools discussed with other initiatives at the same time.	A lot of new issues discussed with other teachers to think about. Suggestions for demanding more from students.	
Philosophy; practical uses	Implementation by the district.	Change planning; more student centered; higher standards "if supported."	
The handouts.	Need department meeting more; need cross-curricular activities for teachers.	I will use reading strategies in my class.	We need a blog where teachers can share lesson plans; graphic organizers; curriculum; books that are being read.
The practical approach of the presenter. Having had teaching experiences, he was able to speak to us from a teacher perspective; time to collaborate with other teachers.	Too late in the semester.	Using the graphic organizers provided and modeling discussions after Pappas approach.	Working more across on grade levels to collaborate; have a set time each week to work collaboratively.
It was taught by a person who had actually been a teacher in the field for so long.		I would like to feel more supported; I think real change from collaboration and exchanging ideas-especially if we are given specific time to do so.	As a school, I feel we have too many ideas and initiatives; it's overwhelming. I think by tailoring everything down (even taking bits and pieces of various models and forming our own) it would make more sense-would feel so overwhelmed.
Visuals –power point using graphics.	Too late in school year.		
Handout book; speaker; small meeting sessions	Should be in the beginning of the year.	I will try to implement several of the techniques.	Concrete examples from my department.
Presentation and handouts.	Timing of presentation.	Will try if have time.	
Loved the survival test because it forced participants into higher order thinking; provides practical user-friendly materials cross curricular.	Timing—March too late; over emphasis on vocabulary instruction; most be a balance between "discovery learning" vs. curriculum coverage.	We will work to incorporate relevant reading strategies across the content areas.	Release time for collaboration vs. "lunch meetings on the fly." In-service time utilized by departments for departmental business vs. general programs "en masse."
It was focused on a specific goal.		I will use the graphic organizers.	
Discussing ideas and topics with other teachers in break-out rooms; having ideas from the tool kit sheets.		I can use ideas from the tool kit to increase vocabulary in class; the lessons are easy to follow!	
Presenter, Peter Pappas focused on strategies that were useful to me.	Lengthy session in Auditorium.	I will incorporate several of the presented strategies in my classroom.	
Discussion groups.	Too many –large group.	Implementing some strategies into my classroom.	
Time to interact with colleagues.	Not enough time to meet.	Gave necessary tools and	Need to come back!

	Need to come back to this.	strategies to enhance rigor and relevance in my classroom.	
Lots of good ideas for the classroom.	Info. Overload-still lots of good ideas.	Give me other lesson ideas; able to add to things I already do similar to these ideas.	Allowing time in departments to talk about how to put these ideas into practice rather than just being introduced to the idea and not being able to revisit it as a departmental unit.
Techniques on defining and classifying.	Time to work with your team/department to discuss how to use these strategies.	Nothing yet, but it sparked ideas. I need to sit and think.	
Presenter did a great job of making it practical.	Some of the information was repetitive.	It will help me to add some curricular structure to my classroom.	
New ways of involving the students in the learning process	None	Yes if there is time to meet with other teachers to plan how to implement these strategies	More of this!
Getting to sit and talk with colleagues	Not enough specific examples of strategies for my own content area.	I think I now view literacy in a different way and realize that there are a few things I could do in my classroom.	
Many examples in the presentation were applicable to various subjects.	These ideas are great, but we need time to apply these to our actual lessons.	I will try to implement some of the strategies-I really liked the "defining" activity.	*Applying these ideas within the department.
The presentation (Power Point) was clear and organized. The presenter was very knowledgeable and easy to understand. (Kept attention)		I learned about a lot of ways to incorporate comparing and categorizing activities into my class. Talking with other faculty members provided me with a lot of great ideas.	
Specific multi-discipline referrals.			
Teacher collaboration!	Our concerns about whether or not we will have time to continue with this.	I enjoyed the strategies for literacy in each of the areas.	I strongly agree/believe that future workshops should be revisited.
Ideas on summaries and defining; time to talk with different groups of teachers.		Open communication between administrators and teachers.	
Peter was very insightful		It will help me use higher level thinking in the classroom	
Great new tools to apply in the classroom.	Wish we were given more specific tools and someone to help us think of applying them in my classroom.	If given time to implement and reflect during school days, workshop will really impact my classroom.	Have specific departments work together. Bio teachers together Chem teachers together Physic teachers together Etc.
Creative ides	Could use a few more implementation ideas.	I have more ideas for creative activities.	
Specific activities immediately applicable in the classroom.	Discounting the motivation factor to non-college bound students. How can we hold them accountable?	I will strive to structure my lessons around student not teacher work.	How can faculty have the power to organize and take this initiative to a productive level? How do we bridge it with other school-wide initiatives?
Materials to refer to. Thought provoking scenarios.	No administrator in each session to "hear" what is actually being said.	Strategies for reading in the content area. Strategies that I use have been reaffirmed.	Workshops that promote a vision of what teachers should be doing in the classroom.
Afternoon discussion time.	Too much of a break for lunch.	Encourages me to hold students and myself to higher standards.	
Cross-departmental meeting to get a better idea of how other teachers are experiencing the issues with standards/state tests. Meeting with department to discuss ways of implementing this within curriculum.		Offers some ideas that can be incorporated.	Teacher directed to revisit these ideas within department and cross departmental.

Knowledgeable presenter.	Follow up opportunity.	Depends on if we are able to find the collaborative time to apply what was presented.	Follow up on same program.
Thought provoking, new ideas. Well presented.	Not enough specific ideas for different curricula. Too much "One size fits all"	Will try to design lessons that are more rigorous and relevant.	Break into subject area groups. Have facilitator who can give specific ideas for each subject area.
Ways to look at key skills that should be focused on.	Breakouts' a little unstructured.	Will give me different view of key skills	Good visions must have a chance to be implemented.
Breakout sessions helped to experience what others are trying in their classrooms- (what we all had in common.)		We already use a lot of these strategies-but we can always perfect them.	
The notebook of tools (strategies) to use in the classroom. Time to discuss with other teachers.		I will use the tools in my classroom to teach vocabulary. I also want to evaluate how much higher level thinking I do for my students instead of really making them think.	
Presenter-great.	No time to follow up.	Food for thought.	Time to use it in subject area/ create/ explore.
Connections		Questioning techniques Student centered	What is being done with information gathered?
Team collaboration with the breakout sessions.	Clarity of expectations on the initiative.	Opened the door for new strategies to be used.	
Well organized with quality materials.	Clarity of concepts i.e., rigor and relevance.		
The workshop was down to earth and realistic. The ideas are not pie in the sky. Reminders of basic ideas we learned early in our careers.	Overall, it was fine. Just one thing I would like to see --examples of all subject areas covered.	I will try to bring in more strategies.	
We were allowed time to talk about the issues.	We were not given definitions of rigor, relevance so that they can be properly integrated into our lessons.	I'll be able to implement the summarizing strategy into my class.	
Very organized-good clean proven point.	Applications to all disciplines.	Try to find more strategies to summarize topic and summarize.	
Visual presentations.	Limited info-some impractical information.	Will apply some to class.	More practical ideas. More time for department meetings, collaborative development.
Visuals		Enrichment of pupil-oriented/initiated instruction.	
Nice presentation. Nice points and examples.		I liked the ways to help define things. I liked the practical suggestions he gave that we could actually use in our classrooms.	
Nice presentation-interesting!		I will apply more strategies!	
Loved the interactive pieces (though I already use the "survivor" activity). Without doubt the foremost strength was collaborating with colleagues.	Nothing new introduced in the presentation, though Peter Pappas was well-spoken.	I already do/utilize many strategies and techniques Peter Pappas introduced.	Let us-colleagues-collaborate with one another! Presenters aren't as valuable.
Tool Kit (binder content) Using are piece across the presentation Engaged the audience	Went fast Timing Need more examples using other subjects	Will use reading strategies (reading, writing)	Need more time during the day to collaborate with other teachers, especially across other disciplines. Should have done this early in the school year. Expectations of teachers should be clear and repeated thoroughly.
I found the information to be well researched and found myself challenging some of my old ideas.	Timing of the workshop.	It has provided me with new tools to use in the classroom.	Great handouts.
Small group discussion by content area,	We felt somewhat lost	I want to focus on more	

presenter.	during the PM discussion.	collaboration and discussion	
Stressing the idea that the students need to think on their own-student centered learning.	I felt he went through the PowerPoint slides too fast. I wanted to read and digest the info and he moved onto the next idea.	Moving away from teachers as the source of information to having the students learn on their own.	How to teach the skills assessed on the PSSA without teaching to the test.
It presented useful applications and strategies.		I will try to utilize some of the summarizing and classifying strategies.	
Very organized and practical. Relevant to our (all of our) teaching situations.	Will take a huge amount of work and time to address in all subject areas in a unified manner.	I'm sure we will need a lot of collaborative revision.	
The topic is very important and all disciplines are able to apply the suggested strategies.		I will have more of a focus on vocab./ reading and strategies for learning new info.	Use the word "Rigor" in a vocab/ definition example so we get to the heart of what you mean by rigor.
Gave various strategies that could be implemented. Allowed time for us to meet with our dept. to discuss ideas/strategies.		It gave me some ideas that I can use in my classroom; maybe not every day, but at least in every unit I teach.	Speakers on various disabilities and conditions and how we as educators can help them in our classrooms (Autism, and ADHD).
Challenging the way we've been teaching and getting us to see total picture. Ready to use strategies.	Largeness of the group.	Help direct more student activities/ initiated, completed and evaluated.	Impact of special ed inclusion on regular ed.
The presenter's personality. PowerPoint program was useful	Pages should have been numbered to make it easier to reference. Presenter lectured too long.	More ideas to use in the classroom.	Department time to share effective lesson plans. Examples (more) of student centered learning activities.
Practical applications (examples-story boards, picture discussion-compare/contrast, classify).	Need time to actually sit down and plan how to implement strategies consistently throughout teams and grades.	Use more open-ended classification. Use more pictures.	Planning sessions
Focus on strategies.		Assist in planning instruction.	
Well organized The concept of strategies used across all grades makes sense.	Dry	I think it will affect my classroom in the long run. Many of the ideas which I want to eliminate and replace with new strategies will take time.	
It focused on ways to increase proficiency with skills		The workshop reminded me of some strategies I have previously learned.	
Gave examples with a realistic approach Gave examples related to real life situations	Too much info to digest in 1 session Collaborating time	Collaborating back at Reg school Working in teams Spec/Reg Ed.	
Clear helpful examples of activities as well as theory/data.	?	Incorporating more specifically skills to help increase critical thinking.	Staff Development: All staff vocabulary -common amongst all areas/disciplines
Well organized Appropriate format	More schematic, rather than more concrete.	Modify teaching strategies.	
Various ideas presented Breakout times	Many ideas presented- Difficult to focus on 1 aspect for Dept. work/Change	Focus on student-centered aspects of lessons	
Practical applications were explained	Not completely relevant to any content area.	New strategies for comparing and contrasting.	
Introduced various methods of teaching Reading strategies.			
The focus on content areas rather than Language Arts was valuable. It must continue in future in-services in order to have the theory become reality.	Not enough collaboration between content area teachers and English/Math teachers.		
Peter Pappas brought a lot of good ideas	No real weaknesses.	It will make me think about	

and made you think about many things. Tools that you could use with the students to engage them to focus and be able to express what they were thinking.		things and questions that will help my students focus.	
Usable examples were given to get students to learn how to and use defining, summarizing, classifying, and evaluating.	I do feel that some of the suggestions were limited due to the discipline I teach.	I plan on using some of the techniques in my classroom this year.	
The presenter gave theory along w/concrete examples. Some of the strategies can be easily implemented into structures I already have in place.	Weakness-it may have been more valuable to include entire school's department in AM session-6 th /7 th /8 th (entire vertical team)	Gave me some ideas that would expand/enrich student thinking.	Let us as a vertical team discuss structures we want to put in place so we don't have to spend lots of time teaching how strategies work.
Well organized. Usable information practical.	I need to hear it twice to absorb all the good stuff.	It's easy to see where I can plug these strategies into my lessons.	Great speaker! Get speakers like him who actually teach you something you can use and understand.
Thought provoking, genuine and reaffirming...presenter was excellent.	What is the next step? We need more time to take info & apply it.	Restructure some of my lessons to incorporate ideas.	Need common dept planning time.
Examples of strategies for defining, comparing, and summarizing.		It gave me some direction on how to make vocabulary a bigger part of my instruction.	

Practical, hands-on ideas Engaging Time to work cross-grade & departmental		It gave me a greater bank of tools to use in my classroom. They are easy to begin working on immediately.	Very effective in-service-one of the best ever. Would love more time in the future to follow up on the ideas generated in groups.
Engaging, stimulating my thinking toward ways to use his strategies. Interactive rather than passive. Discussion of using common strategies & vocabulary in a building (or across a district).	Wished I was in my building so during lunch I could have gone through my materials to start making adaptations.	Usable strategies that can be substituted for current activities. Strategies that don't require massive prep time.	
Getting the staff to discuss our situation & direction we are going.		I would like to find more opportunity to discuss plans for including rigor & relevance in our department.	Please give us more time to work together toward a common goal.
Points made in presentation can be easily added to current practices or can be used to modify current practices.	None	See strengths.	See breakout session report.
Small group discussion		I will try to implement strategies-I already spend me "free" time working with my subject area teachers	
Relevance of topic, organization of presentation & interaction between the presenter and the audience.	None	New instructional strategies to facilitate and incorporate reading into my classroom.	
Various approaches to higher order thinking.	Timing-It's March.	The handouts are great! I will try several of them soon.	
Getting people to talk and pay attention to real issues that are relevant.	No viable options or resources that can work in the type of setting that we currently have in our schools.	In minor ways, it will help me but again we need TIME to collaborate.	
The data that was presented was helpful to see how children learn from one nation to the next.	Long	Variety of new ideas-refreshed ideas to try.	
Breakout groups.	Nothing	I'm not sure-still a lot to think about-what follow-up is there after today?	Follow-up Collaboration w/grade levels.
Collaboration of ideas.	Will we ever know if our administrators take our suggestions to heart?	Reading strategies as presented in binder should be helpful.	
Small group collaboration	Too long. Mr. Pappas was	I'll try my hardest.	I'm feeling overwhelmed.

	extremely knowledgeable but spoke too long with too many slides.		
Peer discussion. Seeing content area teachers beginning to really think about literacy in their rooms.		I will keep more of these ideas in mind as I grade my students.	
Pappas was encouraging and realistic.	Where is this info going?	I learned new ways to view & apply what needs to be done I the classroom.	
The ideas that I can take back to my classroom-Vocabulary-text structure-summarizing.	The presentation of the plan for follow-up.	I will think differently about engaging the students I deeper conversations.	
Peter Pappas's presentation	The mini breakout sessions.	Thinking about rigor, relevance & reading within my classroom.	
I got to collaborate with other teachers.	There needs to be follow-up on this workshop.	I will implement some new strategies.	
Interaction with other teachers during breakout sessions.	Overload of info.	I will try to incorporate more "D" activities into my lessons. However, with the amount of work I already do & the limited amount of time, it may be difficult.	More hands-on, movement based activities.
Rigor, relevance & theory		Rigor, relevance & literacy	

Time spent was well broken up. Time for input/discussion.	Repetitive-same conversations as always.	Attempt to incorporate-will probably use some defining/classifying strategies.	
Information was relevant, good speakers, facilitators	Some thing we always hear.	Try to implement information /strategies but will need time to do it	
The preparation assured an easy transition to breakout sessions. I found the breakout session good opportunities to actually discuss the implementations.	Would appreciate more time to implement and dialogue/share infor & strategies.	I will incorporate them into my lessons.	
Mr. Pappas had a refreshing approach that needed to be heard by teachers & administrators alike.	This is a multi-day discussion that needs some serious follow-up.	I learned about some new defining activities.	Follow-up Not like "Grading for Learning!"
Additional strategies in classroom.	Multitude of activities crammed into 1 day!	Generate ideas to enhance student learning.	Follow up to this!!
Teachers were able to collaborate & discuss issues that would improve the rigor & relevance in our classroom.	We needed teachers & administrators to collaborate together.	It depends on the follow-up.	We need to take the information we learned today and <u>really</u> look to implement Best Practices for students.
Speaker was interesting and pretty easy to listen to.	Similar conversation as always.	I would like to use some of the new ideas mentioned today but know that if I am not given the time to implement them& collaborate with my peers.	I would like to see us focus on 1 or 2 main ideas & follow through with them as a district rather than so many different agendas.
It was practical	Not enough time to come to a set of goals.	I will use many of the strategies in y classroom.	Thank you for bringing Pappas in to our school.
Having a chance to collaborate with peers was very valuable.	There's a need to provide notice about what is to be covered in advance in a timely, consistent fashion.	I plan to try some toolbox strategies.	
Time for teachers to talk to one another & share ideas.	Didn't enjoy his walking around, I sat in front to see presenter & he was in back of me most of the time. Not all classrooms/fit workshop well (ability levels)	Something to think about... Perhaps try new strategies from lecture drawing pictures (Earle Dickson), but task needs to be broken down.	Teachers develop useful resources.
Implementation of higher order thinking strategies.	11/2 lunch-not needed	Graphic organizers	Nothing will happen without collaboration.
Collaborating with colleagues.	More time	I would like to incorporate vocabulary strategies.	
Peter Pappas was easy to listen to and entertaining when appropriate. Slides were nice.		If given the time to work more with it. I hope to apply all of today's info into my classroom.	Time to collaborate! Support, long time commitment-not changing focus yearly. Allow us time to effectively use methods before questioning.
Time for collaboration with subject areas and grade levels.	Many techniques not relevant for my content area.	Not much impact due to my content are-Sorry	Departmental collaboration/planning to implement goals etc.
Great for many subject areas. Strategies for summarizing, ok.	Relevant for history, science, etc. Not relevant for a Level I language course. Very few strategies can be used with my curriculum. We also need reading selections to support our content there. Too much time spent on the painting-it was anticlimactic.	It won't vary much. I liked the idea of using a story board to summarize but that's the only concrete strategy I can use.	<u>Time</u> to collaborate with dept. on strategies we can use effectively.

That we were given time to discuss in small groups (grade & subject) what was talked about in the larger group.		I will use strategies that were discussed in the smaller groups in my classroom.	The most productive & effective in-service I've been to since I've been in the district.
The workshop had many good points and made me think about how I encourage students to think at higher levels in my class.	From here, I think we need more time to work together to implement some of these strategies.	I'd like to try and use some of the graphic organizers & strategies introduced to teach vocabulary.	Time to work with colleagues to create the diagrams or figure out how we are going to implement these strategies so they are common across grade levels & subject areas.
Incorporating the skills presented during Peter's sessions into the smaller groups. It was an extremely helpful opportunity to meet with peers.	None that I felt or noticed.	I feel reading strategies that were discussed today will really help improve proficiency. It gave me ideas for every student and skill level.	I really think this workshop was beneficial for everyone. Every teacher/ aide present walked away with something new! Maybe some similarly structured in-service days like this in the future.
Time to reflect with peers.	Many of the same ideas from past in-services and grad classes.	It won't, unless there is time to work with colleagues. Teachers need time together to develop the structure needed to apply this information.	
Engaging-segmented appropriately	Facilitators of breakout sessions should've been prepared in advance.	Vocabulary strategies ("Frayer" model) easily implemented.	Cross grade articulation
Peter Pappas was realistic to his approach to classroom strategies. Gave wonderful insight to be used at all grade levels for all students.		Try some of Pappas' strategies to engage my students with making their own decisions-creating their own work through graphic organizers. Students will create their own goals and rubrics.	Peter was very knowledgeable with wonderful ideas and insight. Cross-grade time? Cross curriculum content.
Small breakout sessions with departments and grade levels where everyone can be on the same page and share ideas.	The workshop was very beneficial, but what really matters is the support and follow through by the district. If this is the direction the district wants to move (and I agree) then the necessary resources and time must be given to make it successful.	It depends on the district's commitment to give time and opportunities to collaborate with colleagues in our department and grade level. ½ day in-service days are excellent opportunities, but you need to trust us as professional to use our time wisely.	Time to work and develop rigorous and relevant lessons with department and grade level colleagues.
We got the chance to collaborate with our department and grade level teams getting together.		I will use many of the vocab. and classification strategies.	Follow-up needs to be done. As a teacher, I am willing to adopt these ideas/strategies if we are provided with support.
Group discussions in teams and grade levels. Trying to get everyone on the same page.	Sitting for lecture Facilitators	More strategies can be used in the classroom. Gave me a chance to see where all teachers are (ideas used)	Time to implement ideas and strategies.