

Teacher Study Guide

by Barbara Blackburn

Chapter One

1. What are some reasons to care about rigor?
2. Which myth about rigor resonates with you? Why?
3. What was your response to the definition of rigor? How do you already incorporate aspects of rigor in your classroom?

Chapter Two

1. How do the Common Core State Standards support a rigorous classroom?
2. How do students currently select text in your class? Are there any new ideas you might consider from this section?
3. What are the obstacles to focusing on depth of instruction? How can you work around those?

Chapter Three

1. Which of the questioning strategies interest you? How could they help you enhance your questioning?
2. What are ways you can bring reviews up to a higher level? How can you do this without frustrating at-risk students?
3. Choose a project or assignment. How does it compare with the sample in this chapter? What are ways you can improve it if needed, especially in regard to assessing quality rather than quantity?

Chapter Four

1. How do you model learning for your students? Did any of the strategies described spark a new idea?
2. Review the “Professional” versus “Amateur” Learner chart. Do you have students who fit those categories? If so, how might you help them address their challenges?
3. Which aspect of the characteristics of good SUPPORT did you find interesting? How would this help your students?

Chapter Five

1. How do you think using discovery with your students would benefit their learning?
2. What types of choices do you provide your students? Are there others you could integrate into your instruction?
3. Understanding different perspectives and making connections are critical skills for students. How would the ideas in these sections help prepare your students for the future?

Chapter Six

1. Which of the two aspects of student motivation would enhance your instruction if you increased your focus on it?
2. How can you increase participation and engagement from your students?
3. How do you celebrate progress with your students? What is another way you can celebrate?

Chapter Seven

1. Which of the challenges resonated the most with you? How can you turn that challenge into an opportunity?
2. Are there resources or support you need from other teachers or your leadership team? How might you ask them for help?
3. Which of the recommendations about assessment and grading did you find helpful? Why?