



My name is Jessica Parker, and I teach ELA at North DeSoto 3-5. I've always known how important it is to make sure my students can read, understand, and express understanding of complex texts, but this year I've been pushing myself to try some new strategies to build their ability to do this. After doing some research, I stumbled across [Socratic seminars](#), which are a student-led method of diving deep into multiple texts. Releasing control and putting my students' in the driver's seat of their own learning was a little scary at first, but I've discovered that the ideas that they discuss are so much more meaningful than the new learning they could get from me...or a textbook...or a website...or a video.

Interested in learning more about what this looks like in my classroom? Here are some materials I used for a Socratic seminar that was part of this great [ELA guidebook unit](#) on the Revolutionary War: my [observation checklist](#), a [student self-evaluation form](#), and a [PowerPoint](#) that includes the questions that my students discussed. You can find more resources like these in the [strategy one-pagers](#) below!

I also encourage you to join us for the upcoming Teacher Leader Collaboration Event, which will focus on other ELA and math instructional strategies to help you teach critical skills in these content areas.

Register for the December Teacher Leader Collaboration Event

Want to learn more about instructional strategies like Socratic seminar? **Register for one of our December Teacher Leader Collaboration Events!** These will take place the week of December 8 in Ruston Lafayette, and Jefferson and will focus on ELA and math instructional strategies to help you build [key skills](#) in these content areas. Interested participants must register through Coursewhere. Spaces are limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

For more information about these events including the sessions that will be offered and how to register, please click [here](#).

ELA Instructional Strategy One-Pagers

The LDOE has also created [ELA instructional strategy one-pagers](#) to teach you how to implement strategies like [Socratic seminars](#), [semantic mapping](#), [summarizing](#) and [accountable talk](#) and many more. These simple documents highlight how each strategy aligns to our standards, offer tips for implementation and provide helpful resources like templates, videos and websites. Check them out!

Attend PARCC Assessment Office Hours

These strategies help our students learn the [key skills](#) that they will need to succeed on our state exams, not to mention in their chosen college and career. Be sure you're getting all of the new information on our end of year exams and getting your questions answered. **Attend the Department's weekly office hours for educators who have questions about PARCC assessments or new academic expectations generally.** Starting Thursday, November 20, and continuing every Thursday between now and April, educators can [log on](#) between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to ask questions and have their questions resolved quickly.

EAGLE Updates

Looking for items aligned to the PARCC and EOC assessments that you can use in your classroom to practice and build your students' skills? Check out EAGLE! Every month through March the Department will release new items in EAGLE. This month, the release includes:

- 14 Guidebook Cold-read item sets totaling 101 items
- 70 math items
- 116 retired Louisiana Pass items (science/social studies)
- 959 new social studies items.

Visit the [EAGLE homepage](#) for updates and item counts per grade.

Share Your Success Story with Fellow Teacher Leaders

I know I'm not the only teacher out there using instructional strategies like Socratic seminar to help my students develop key skills in math and ELA. I encourage you to share your success with other Teacher Leaders in future Teacher Leader newsletters so we can learn from each other! **If you have a success story related to developing these [key skills in math and ELA](#) or would like to nominate a fellow teacher, please email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov.**

TEACHER LEADERS
STAY CONNECTED. 

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE ON TWITTER: [#TeacherLeader](#) 

EMAIL US YOUR COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, & FEEDBACK: LouisianaTeacherLeaders@la.gov

COLLABORATE & SHARE RESOURCES: www.edmodo.com; Group Join Code: LKEAQ4

SEE CURRENT COMMUNICATION & UPCOMING TRAINING:

[www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/classroom-support-toolbox/
teacher-support-toolbox/collaboration-teacher-leadership](http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/classroom-support-toolbox/teacher-support-toolbox/collaboration-teacher-leadership)