



Hello, my name is Tania P. Coleman. I teach mathematics at Riverside Alternative High School where I love having the opportunity to help my students grow in mathematics beyond their expectations. I'm also a Teacher Leader Advisor, which I enjoy because it allows me to play a part in helping students across Louisiana reach their greatest potential.

Rich, student-centered discussions about math develop students' ability to clearly express themselves and defend their mathematical reasoning. They are one of the best ways to boost students' mathematical vocabulary and deepen their understanding of key math concepts. Furthermore, if your students can talk about math, they are on the path to being able to write about it.

I recently gave my students— whose achievement levels in math vary widely— an [open-ended question](#) that could be solved a variety of ways and asked them to work in groups to come up with a solution. Each group proceeded to solve the problem in very different ways and enjoyed the opportunity to articulate which approach they chose and why. As a result of this lesson, my students have improved both their verbal and written explanations of their mathematical understanding.

Looking for more information about how to lead rich class discussions in math? Check out these [resources from the December Teacher Leader Collaboration Event](#) and make sure to join us the week of January 26 for our next set of events.

### Save the Date: January Teacher Leader Collaboration Event

Interested in learning more about instructional strategies like leading rich discussion in mathematics? **Attend one of our January Teacher Leader Collaboration Events**, which will take place the **week of January 26** in **Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Alexandria and Bossier**. Click [here](#) for more information.

Participants will have the opportunity to choose two sessions from a menu of eight. Sessions will focus on topics ranging from ELA and math instructional strategies, to [PARCC practice tests](#), to our new [social studies](#) and [science](#) items.

Interested participants must register through Coursewhere. Spaces are limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. **We will share more information how to register on Friday, January 9.**

### New Science and Social Studies Items

The Department is creating [science](#) and [social studies](#) tasks for teachers to use with students to prepare them for end-of-year assessments.

The newly available tasks include:

- Overview guidance for teachers
- Passage sets with sources included or links to sources
- Scaffolded practice questions/activities to help students make meaning of the sources
- A rigorous writing prompt aligned to science/social studies GLEs
- Scoring guidance for teachers

There will be two tasks for every grade available in the [Teacher Toolbox](#) and [Teacher Support Library](#). The January Teacher Leader Collaboration will include training on these tools.

## Prepare for the End of Year Assessments

The Department is committed to ensuring that teachers have the resources and tools they need to help students be successful on the end of year assessments. Here are some tools you can use to prepare:

- [Assessment Office Hours](#) every Thursday at 11:00 and 3:00.
- [Assessment Guides](#): In March, the Department released assessment guides for educators. These outline all important assessment information, including test structure, item types, administrative guidelines, etc.
- [Sample assessment questions](#) and [practice tests](#)
- Curriculum guides in [math](#) and [ELA](#) that include end-of-year assessment-aligned practice questions
- [PARCC Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) for use in informing accommodations and accessibility decision

## EAGLE Updates

[EAGLE](#) is an online bank of items that you can use to 1) assess whether your students are on track to mastering key skills that will be assessed on the EOC and PARCC exams, and 2) help your students prepare for these exams.

In November, the Department [released hundreds of items](#) in ELA, math, science, and social studies that are aligned to our state assessments. Additional items will be added every month. The Department will also remove a small amount of EAGLE content that no longer reflects the rigor of our state standards. Beginning in January 2015, all tests created prior to January 2015 should be reviewed by district and school users before administering to students.

If district or school users need assistance with searching or finding additional items/item sets, please contact the [EAGLE Help Desk](#) for support.

## December Teacher Leader Collaboration Event Session Materials

At December's Teacher Leader Collaboration Event, Teacher Leaders had the opportunity to attend sessions focused on ELA and math instructional strategies, scoring writing in ELA, the content-specific Compass rubrics, and PARCC administration. Click [here for the session materials](#). To obtain proof that you attended this event, please log into Coursewhere to print your transcript. You may also find [sign-in](#)

[sheets here](#). Finally, if you attended these events and have not yet completed the [feedback survey](#), we would greatly appreciate if you would take 10 minutes to do this.

## Share Your Success Story with Fellow Teacher Leaders

We 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](mailto:louisianateacherleaders@la.gov).**

**TEACHER LEADERS**  
STAY CONNECTED. 

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE ON TWITTER: #TeacherLeader 

EMAIL US YOUR COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, & FEEDBACK: [LouisianaTeacherLeaders@la.gov](mailto:LouisianaTeacherLeaders@la.gov)

COLLABORATE & SHARE RESOURCES: [www.edmodo.com](http://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)