

Performance Assessment for Teacher Leaders (PATL)

Library of Examples

Task 2, The Research Topic

Below is an example of a written response to The Research Topic textbox. The candidate response was not corrected or changed from what was submitted. This information is being provided for illustrative purposes only. While The Research Topic textbox does not receive a score, this is an example that candidates can use for comparison purposes to see the kinds of evidence that they may need to add to their own work in order to give the rater a perspective on the research topic around which this response is based.

Guiding Prompt for The Research Topic

Briefly state the curriculum-based issue that is the focus of the research. Include the student-learning need(s) that the research addresses.

Example

The teacher-leader's School Improvement Plan revealed a need to improve student performance on both the Biology and 9th-Grade Literature End-of-Course tests, the graduation rate, and career readiness skills. The teacher-leader wanted to investigate the use of literacy strategies in the content area of Honors Biology to see if they could help students excel at higher levels as they learned to comprehend subject-specific texts. The teacher-leader teaches Biology and Honors Biology, primarily, and the course standards include scientific thinking and process skills along with state specific strands that focus on reading in the content area. Still, some students are reluctant readers or they do not understand how to incorporate literacy strategies in the content area. In order to be successful in the academic environment and in life, students must learn to be critical readers as they are exposed to various complex texts. Therefore, the teacher leader decided to examine the effects of three specific questioning strategies on reading comprehension when compared to traditional best practice strategies with two classes of 9th and 10th grade Honors Biology students.