



Literacy Volunteers of America

Essex & Passaic Counties

www.lvaep.org

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Teaching Reading Comprehension Skills Through Effective Questioning

Presenter, Catherine Mitch

Platform: Google Meet

Wednesday, January 18, 2022, 12:30 am – 2:00 pm

Presenter's biography:

The name Catherine Mitch has become synonymous with Literacy New Jersey. Catherine is a former program director for Literacy New Jersey, a non-profit organization that provides free literacy services to adults in 12 state counties. In that role, she organized and led the organization's Mercer County Programs, overseeing literacy education to county residents.

Catherine has extensive experience as a professor, teacher, and instructor in a career that spanned more than 25 years and brought her to places as local as Rutgers University and Raritan Valley Community College and as distant as a Papua, New Guinea seminary where she taught for three years. Although Catherine recently retired, she continues to maintain a presence in the literacy scene by helping to train teachers and tutors for non-profit organizations, leading educational workshops, and instructing individuals.

Workshop description:

We all want our students to succeed and we do our best to help them. That is why it is so frustrating to both us and our students when even after hours of instruction, they show little progress on grant-required standardized tests. One possible reason is that these standardized tests are not only evaluating language skills, but also critical thinking skills. Perhaps this is why our students who have completed high school and higher education in their background perform better on these tests.

This workshop will examine how tutors can use effective questioning to help students look beyond the words in a text and discover meaning. SQ3R will be our starting point, but we will explore other techniques as well. Don't let the acronym scare you. Most of us who attended school since 1946 were taught by this method. SQ3R is a reading comprehension method named for its five steps: survey, question, read, recite, and review. By employing these approaches, we can help our students evaluate not only the 2-4 paragraph texts used in instruction and assessment, but also learn the analytical skills for all areas of their lives.

