

## Focus Schmoker Study Guide

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~~Curriculum, Instruction, and Literacy in the Content Areas In the early years, students need time to read, not to do skills drills or reading "activities." Schmoker points out... Students should be exposed to broad, wide reading of both fiction and nonfiction: "We learn to read well by reading a... ..."~~

~~Back to Basics: A Review of Mike Schmoker's "Focus" | Cult ...~~

~~This ASCD Study Guide is designed to enhance your understanding and application of the information contained in Focus: Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve Student Learning, an ASCD book written by Mike Schmoker and published in January 2011. You can use the study guide before or after you have read the book, or as you finish each chapter.~~

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Focus Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve ...

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Focus Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve Student Learning by Mike Schmoker This ASCD Study Guide is designed to enhance your understanding and application of the information contained in Focus: Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve Student Learning, an ASCD book written by Mike Schmoker and

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published in January 2011.

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Teaching and Leading with FOCUS Mike Schmoker [schmoker@futureone.com](mailto:schmoker@futureone.com)  
480/219-4673

with FOCUS

Leading with FOCUS (ASCD 2016). This book is a leadership and implementation guide to FOCUS: Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve Student Learning. Results NOW (ASCD 2006) was a finalist for “book of the year” by the Association of Education Publishers.

Mike Schmoker - School and District Improvement ...

About This Book In this 2nd edition of Focus: Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve Student Learning, Mike Schmoker extends and updates the case that our schools could be on the cusp of swift, unparalleled improvements.

ASCD Book: Focus: Elevating the Essentials To Radically ...

Blog. Sept. 9, 2020. How Girls in Tech used Prezi Video to address social issues;  
Sept. 5, 2020. How to engage your audience in any online presentation

Focus by Mike Schmoker by Kristy Sayers - Prezi

Dr. Mike Schmoker has written three books and numerous articles, which have. Failure to improve our schools in the last few decades isn't. focus schmoker amazon Ideas from Focus, by Mike Schmoker. schmoker focus summary The real path to. ASCD Study Guide for Focus by Mike Schmoker. Contained in Focus: Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve Student

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Mike Schmoker delivers a solid guide to improving teaching by focusing on what most teachers would consider the most basic of tasks, including reading and annotating, discussion, and writing. He offers case studies to back up his claims and presents easy-to-follow guidelines to recreate his ideas in the classroom, but (then again) most teachers know exactly what to do.

In this 2nd edition of Focus: Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve Student Learning, Mike Schmoker extends and updates the case that our schools could be on the cusp of swift, unparalleled improvements. But we are stymied by a systemwide failure to simplify and prioritize; we have yet to focus our limited time and energy on the most essential, widely acknowledged, evidence-based practices that could have more impact than all other initiatives combined. They are: simple, coherent curricula; straightforward, traditional literacy practices; and lessons built around just a few hugely effective elements of good teaching. As Schmoker demonstrates, the case for these practices—and the need for them—has grown prodigiously. In every chapter, you'll find late-breaking discoveries and practical advice on how to simplify the implementation of new state standards in the subject areas; on the hidden pitfalls of our most popular, but unproven instructional fads and programs; and on simple, versatile strategies for building curriculum, planning lessons, and integrating literacy

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into every discipline. All of these strategies and findings are supported with exciting new evidence from actual schools. Their success confirms, as Michael Fullan writes, that a focus on the best "high-leverage practices" won't only improve student performance; they will produce "stunningly powerful consequences" in our schools.

In this 2nd edition of *Focus: Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve Student Learning*, Mike Schmoker extends and updates the case that our schools could be on the cusp of swift, unparalleled improvements. But we are stymied by a systemwide failure to simplify and prioritize; we have yet to focus our limited time and energy on the most essential, widely acknowledged, evidence-based practices that could have more impact than all other initiatives combined. They are: simple, coherent curricula; straightforward, traditional literacy practices; and lessons built around just a few hugely effective elements of good teaching. As Schmoker demonstrates, the case for these practices--and the need for them--has grown prodigiously. In every chapter, you'll find late-breaking discoveries and practical advice on how to simplify the implementation of new state standards in the subject areas; on the hidden pitfalls of our most popular, but unproven instructional fads and programs; and on simple, versatile strategies for building curriculum, planning lessons, and integrating literacy into every discipline. All of these strategies and findings are supported with exciting new evidence from actual schools. Their success confirms, as Michael Fullan writes, that a focus on the best "high-leverage practices" won't only improve student performance; they will produce "stunningly powerful consequences" in our schools.

In his 2011 ASCD best-seller *Focus: Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve Student Learning*, author Mike Schmoker described a fresh approach to K-12 teaching built on three core elements: a focused and coherent curriculum; clear, prioritized lessons; and purposeful reading and writing, or authentic literacy. Now, in *Leading with Focus*, he shows administrators, principals, and other education leaders how to apply his model to the work of running schools and districts. In this companion to his previous book, Schmoker offers \* An overview of the case for simple, focused school and district leadership--demonstrating its power for vastly improving the work of teachers and leaders. \* Examples of real schools and districts that have embraced focused leadership--and the incredible results for student learning. \* A practical, flexible, and easy-to-follow implementation guide for ensuring focused leadership in schools and districts. All students deserve to learn in schools where educators eschew distractions and superfluous activities to concentrate on what's most important. To that end, this book is an essential resource for leaders ready to streamline their practice and focus their efforts on radically improving student learning.

According to author Mike Schmoker, there is a yawning gap between the most well-known essential practices and the reality of most classrooms. This gap persists despite the hard, often heroic work done by many teachers and administrators. Schmoker believes that teachers and administrators may know what the best practices are, but they aren't using them or reinforcing them consistently. He asserts that our schools are protected by a buffer--a protective barrier that prevents scrutiny of instruction by outsiders. The buffer exists within the school as well. Teachers often know only what is going on in their classrooms--and they may be completely in the dark about what other teachers in the school are doing. Even principals, says Schmoker, don't have a clear view of the daily practices of teaching and learning in

their schools. Schmoker suggests that we need to get beyond this buffer to confront the truth about what is happening in classrooms, and to allow teachers to learn from each other and to be supervised properly. He outlines a plan that focuses on the importance of consistent curriculum, authentic literacy education, and professional learning communities for teachers. What will students get out of this new approach? Learning for life. Schmoker argues passionately that students become learners for life when they have more opportunities to engage in strategic reading, writing with explicit guidance, and argument and discussion. Through strong teamwork, true leadership, and authentic learning, schools and their students can reach new heights. Results Now is a rally cry for educators to focus on what counts. If they do, Schmoker promises, the entire school community can count on unprecedented achievements.

What exactly is an "assignment," and why does it matter? How can educators ensure that their teaching meets the rigorous demands of the Common Core State Standards, so that all students are well prepared for college or careers? Drawing from her extensive experience as a teacher coach, author Eleanor Dougherty answers these questions and many more, with two aims in mind: (1) to guide teachers and administrators in crafting high-quality assignments, and (2) to help educators understand the powerful impact that assignments can have on teaching and learning. The book explains the critical differences among "assignments," "activities," and "assessments" and thoroughly describes the key elements of an assignment: prompts, rubrics, products, and instructional plans. Readers will learn how to \* Follow a seven-step process for crafting effective assignments; \* Link assignments to units and courses; \* Devise "Anchor" assignments for collaboration and consistency across grades; \* Tap into instructional "touchstones" that can enrich any assignment; \* Create classroom and school environments that support assignment-making; and \* Use assignments as a source of data about teaching and learning. Equipped with the knowledge and expertise gained from Assignments Matter, readers will be able to create meaningful learning experiences for their students and come to appreciate the author's belief that "assignments may well be the missing link in school reform efforts to improve student achievement."

This anthology presents the recommendations of education leaders, and each chapter contributes to a sound conceptual framework and offers specific strategies for developing PLCs. These leaders have found common ground in expressing their belief in the power of PLCs although clear differences emerge regarding their perspectives on the most effective strategy for making PLCs the norm in North America.

A teacher presents a lesson, and at the end asks students if they understand the material. The students nod and say they get it. Later, the teacher is dismayed when many of the students fail a test on the material. Why aren't students getting it? And, just as important, why didn't the teacher recognize the problem? In Checking for Understanding, Douglas Fisher and Nancy Frey show how to increase students' understanding with the help of creative formative assessments. When used regularly, formative assessments enable every teacher to determine what students know and what they still need to learn. Fisher and Frey explore a variety of engaging activities that check for and increase understanding, including interactive writing, portfolios, multimedia presentations, audience response systems, and much more. This new 2nd

edition of *Checking for Understanding* has been updated to reflect the latest thinking in formative assessment and to show how the concepts apply in the context of Fisher and Frey's work on gradual release of responsibility, guided instruction, formative assessment systems, data analysis, and quality instruction. Douglas Fisher and Nancy Frey are the creators of the Framework for Intentional and Targeted (FIT) Teaching™. They are also the authors of numerous ASCD books, including *The Formative Assessment Action Plan: Practical Steps to More Successful Teaching and Learning* and the best-selling *Enhancing RTI: How to Ensure Success with Effective Classroom Instruction and Intervention*.

Looks at educational practices that can make an immediate and profound difference in student learning.

Discover a proven way to deal effectively with the white waters of change in education, and create a culture of hope in which students receive the support they need to achieve success. The authors' extensive experience with effective schools research and the power of the professional learning community combine to create a uniquely hopeful approach that results in effective and efficient schools.

This book discusses four approaches to incorporating student achievement in teacher evaluation. Seven chapters discuss: (1) "Teacher Evaluation and Student Achievement: An Introduction to the Issues"; (2) "What is the Relationship between Teaching and Learning?" (e.g., whether teachers are responsible for student learning and how to measure student learning); (3) "Assessing Teacher Performance through Comparative Student Growth: The Dallas Value-Added Accountability System"; (4) "Assessing Teacher Performance through Repeated Measures of Student Gains: The Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System"; (5) "Assessing Teacher Performance with Student Work: The Oregon Teacher Work Sample Methodology"; (6) "Assessing Teacher Performance in a Standards-Based Environment: The Thompson, Colorado, School District"; and (7) "Teacher Evaluation and Student Achievement: What are the Lessons Learned and Where Do We Go from Here?" (e.g., basic requirements of fair testing programs that are to be used to inform teacher evaluation). Chapters 3-6 include information on the purposes of the accountability system and how it was developed; student assessment strategies; how the accountability system works; how the accountability system relates to teacher evaluation; the advantages and disadvantages of the accountability system for teacher evaluation; and results of implementation. (Contains 66 references.) (SM)

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