

Dear Instructor,

This letter introduces the curriculum for an undergraduate course on literacy instruction. The main text for this course is *Literacy Essentials: Engagement, Excellence, and Equity for All Learners* (Stenhouse, 2018). Each subsection in the text can serve as the primary resource for one week of instruction. There are fifteen subsections which equates to approximately one semester.

While the curriculum does follow *Literacy Essentials* closely, the focus for this course is not merely to cover the text. Rather, the goal is to guide students to uncover the big ideas regarding literacy instruction and apply them to their specific contexts and future planning. The framework for this curriculum, *Understanding by Design* by Dr. Grant Wiggins and Dr. Jay McTighe, helped in developing these instructional plans to guide future instructors and students toward essential understandings.

You will find the following materials within this curriculum:

- A unit of study for each of the three sections within *Literacy Essentials: Engagement, Excellence, and Equity*.
- A lesson plan template along with an example lesson plan that instructors can use to prepare for their own teaching that is aligned with the curriculum expectations.

For additional content that undergraduate students can explore, check out the sources cited by Regie in the back of the text. The appendix also offers several guides and summaries that can be reproduced for instruction. Go to <https://sites.stenhouse.com/literacyessentials/> to access printable versions of the appendices along with samples of K-12 students' writing as well as URLs for References and Resources.

If you are using *Literacy Essentials* to teach a blended or online undergraduate course, you will need to apply some of the suggested activities to a web-based learning experience. For example, students can video record themselves delivering part of their extended literacy lesson plan and then posting their recording within the learning management system you use.

In the introduction to *Literacy Essentials*, Regie notes, "At my core, I am a teacher. My most joyous work – and when I feel most at one with myself – is when I am working with students." It is the goal of this curriculum that you too can experience the joy that comes with teaching students about excellent literacy instruction and observing them make progress toward becoming highly effective and engaging teachers of readers and writers.