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2022

Deconstructing the Standards

Melissa Y. Pollard

Gardner-Webb University, m.y.pollard23@gmail.com

Seon S. Sloley

Gardner-Webb University, seons.sloley@gmail.com

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Recommended Citation

Pollard, Melissa Y. and Sloley, Seon S., "Deconstructing the Standards" (2022). *Instructional Modules for Professional learning Responding to Opportunities and Valuing Educators (IMPROVE)*. 35.
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About this Professional Learning Module

Team Members: Melissa Pollard and Seon Sloley

PLM Title: Deconstructing the Standards

PLM Hours: 5 hours to be attempted at learner's pace

PLM Link: <https://sites.google.com/view/deconstructing-the-standards/home>

Description: The purpose of this Professional Learning Module (PLM) is to improve teacher understanding of academic standard deconstruction. We created this professional learning module to assist educators in better understanding how to deconstruct standards. In this PLM, you will find information about:

1. The need for deconstruction
2. The deconstruction process
3. Identifying learning Targets
4. Using a graphic organizer
5. Common assessments aligned to standards

We hope that both educators and district-level personnel will find this PLM instrumental in the training process of deconstructing standards. In unpacking, repacking, and organizing standards, teachers will develop a better understanding of what the standards are explicitly stating what is required of students academically. The deconstructing process will also give educators the opportunity to create quality assessments for students in improving mastery across content areas.

Subjects: New Teachers, Veteran Teachers, Formative Assessments, Learning Targets

Terms of Use: The learning cycle featured in this project is based on the STAR Legacy Cycle developed by the IRIS Center (2013; <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/>) and based on the work of Dr. John Branford and colleagues (National Research Council, 2000).

About the Authors:



Melissa Pollard is a native of Sumter, South Carolina. She obtained a B.A. in Elementary Education from Allen University. With this degree, she taught Middle Level English Language Arts for fourteen years in Sumter and Richland counties, and a total of seventeen years experience in the education field. Throughout her career, she continued to keep a

focus on education and received a M.A. in Professional Counseling from South University. In 2022, she received a M.A. and became licensed in School Administration.

Her time in the classroom has been celebrated by receiving various awards such as, two-time Teacher of the Year, Reading Teacher of the Year, and WLTX Teacher of the Week. Melissa believes in giving students opportunities to grow and showcase their talents and skills. Many of the lessons she taught foster collaboration, inquiry, the use of 21st-century skills. Her students have been featured in the local newspaper for their work in a living museum project. She used music to reinforce academic skills and collaboration, and this love for music served as a way to develop strong teacher-student relationships and student-student interactions. Melissa created a YouTube page called "ELAtheLitWay" to help students academically and socially. As a result, her students were locally discovered and selected to perform their song "Pick It Up" for the Earth Day celebration in Sumter County.

She has presented at the SC Middle School Conference and the Writing Improvement Network. Melissa shifted into a new role as an elementary level Technology and Learning Coach. In that role, she collaborates with teachers to find ways to enhance their lessons through technology integration. In addition to changing careers, Melissa decided to continue her educational journey by becoming a doctoral candidate at Gardner-Webb University. In 2020, she published two children's books, *Counting on Friends* and *Dream Chasers*, and both are available on Amazon. Her motto is, "Never tell me what a child cannot do. I will prove you wrong every time."

To contact Melissa

Professional email: mepollard@richland2.org

Personal email: m.y.pollard23@gmail.com

Twitter: [@elathelitway](https://twitter.com/elathelitway)



Seon Sonya Sloley is a 24-year veteran who is currently the Science Lead at Charles H Parker Academic Center in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. She has earned a teaching diploma at the Sam Sharpe Teachers College (1998), Bachelor of Arts in education with an emphasis in English from the Northern Caribbean University (2004), a Masters in School Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University (2010), holds a school administrator license (2019), and is currently a doctoral

candidate for the Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at Gardner-Webb University. Seon holds a professional teaching license as an elementary and science elementary teacher for K-6. She began her teaching career at the age of 19 years old in Jamaica, where she taught Social Studies to grades 7 and 9 students, and all elementary subjects to grades, 2, 3 and 6 students. Specific research interests include frequent curriculum changes and its effect on teacher instruction and students' academics. She has worked in both urban and rural school districts and is currently working in a Title 1 school. She believes in advocating for teachers, students, and parents and believes that strong community involvement from educators within the school community they teach, will foster better and stronger relationships between school and community (parents).

To contact Seon

Professional email: seons.sloley@cms.k12.nc.us

Personal email

seons.sloley@gmail.com

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