

Understanding Text Complexity Across the Content Areas

Dr. Diane August

American Institutes for Research

Monday, February 8, 2016

Time: 11:30-12:45pm

Location: Benjamin 2212B

This presentation will explain the features of English language arts, social studies, and science texts that make them challenging for English language learners to comprehend. The session will be interactive. Participants will have opportunities to use what they have learned to identify challenging text features in new passages.



Diane August, Ph.D. is a Managing Researcher affiliated with the American Institutes for Research (AIR). At AIR she is responsible for directing the English-language learner work for the Education Program. Her area of expertise is policy, research, and technical assistance related to the education of pre-school and school age second-language learners. Dr. August brings 40 years of experience in the many aspects of educating language-minority children. Prior to her position at AIR, she was a Senior Research Scientist at the Center for Applied Linguistics where she directed federally-funded studies related to the development of literacy in English-language learners. She also served as Co-Principal Investigator of at the IES-funded National Research and Development Center on English language Learners where she developed, implemented and evaluated innovative STEM programs for secondary school ELLs. She has been a Senior Program Officer at the National Academy of Sciences where she was study director for the Committee on Developing a Research Agenda on the Education of Limited English Proficient and Bilingual Students. Dr. August has worked as a teacher, school administrator, legislative assistant, Grants Officer for the Carnegie Corporation, and Director of Education for the Children's Defense Fund. In 1981, she received her Ph.D. in education from Stanford University, and in 1982 completed a postdoctoral fellowship in psychology also at Stanford. She has published widely in journals and books.

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