

Important Information—How to Use this Guide

Pacing and Layout

The guide is organized by theme into seven modules, and each module is divided up into two or three sections, or units. Each module will take approximately two to three months to complete, depending on how often the class meets and the level of the students. The amount of material completed in one lesson will vary based on the interests and needs of the students.

Tips for Success

This resource asks students to do repeated readings of a core text, answering deeper questions with each reading. This process allows students who are in class each day to build layers of meaning, while the materials are still accessible for students who can't come as regularly.

We recommend that you print the main texts on separate handouts, possibly on colored paper. Students will refer to the main text often, and it's helpful for them to be able to look at it next to the other materials. Encourage students to mark up the texts and offer fresh copies as needed.

Each module begins with a Before You Read section, beginning with a set of discussion questions. Use a couple of the discussion questions on the first day of the unit, and use the remaining questions as warm-ups during the rest of the unit. Another option is to revisit a discussion question at a future date. Students give more in-depth answers once they've spent more time studying the issues.

The next section in each unit is called Read Closely. There's no need to finish all of the activities in Before You Read before starting the close reading activities. Pairing one pre-reading activity from Before You Read and one Read Closely activity in one class meeting is effective. This pairing helps students who were absent get up to speed and helps the whole class refresh their understanding.

Academic Discussion and Writing Assignments are at the end of modules. Students will usually need to have copies of all the texts in a module to complete them.

Self-Evaluation

Each unit includes three opportunities for students to evaluate their understanding of the core text, using an evaluation scale. These opportunities function as a quick assessment opportunity for the instructor too. Feel free to adjust the timing of each evaluation to suit the rhythm of the class.

Print the evaluation scale (next page) on colored card stock for reuse.