

Video Companion Guide: [Elementary Cluster Meeting, Full Meeting](#)

Video description:

In this weekly teacher collaborative learning “Cluster” meeting, the leader guides teachers in reviewing student work. Teachers then work together to plan how to teach an inference strategy aligned to their reading curriculum, using clear examples modeled by the leader to support effective classroom implementation. By the end of the Cluster, teachers develop a shared understanding of how to support students in making inferences using grade level content and leave with a clear plan for teaching, modeling, and reinforcing inference strategies in upcoming lessons.

Below are suggested activities and prompts designed to bring video-based learning to life. These activities help leadership teams deepen reflection, strengthen alignment to collaborative learning structures, and build capacity for leading effective Clusters.

Purpose of This Video

This video is designed to support instructional leaders and Cluster leaders by:

- Modeling the 5 Steps for Effective Learning in Cluster
- Strengthening understanding of what a high-quality elementary Cluster looks like in practice
- Demonstrating how student work analysis drives instructional planning within a collaborative learning structure

For Instructional Leaders

Use the reflection questions and discussion activities to facilitate purposeful Cluster conversations, strengthen planning and delivery of collaborative learning structures, and support effective coaching of teachers and Cluster leaders.

Related Activities to Use With This Cluster Video

1. Facilitate Leader Reflection and Calibration

Ask leadership team members and Cluster leaders to view the video with a focus on facilitation moves and planning decisions, then reflect individually before engaging in collaborative discussion.

Guiding Questions:

- What did the Cluster leader do to establish a clear purpose and focus for the meeting?
- How did the leader sequence the discussion to align to the 5 Steps for Effective Learning in Cluster?
- What structures or protocols helped keep the conversation grounded in student work rather than opinions?
- How did the leader support teachers in identifying patterns and trends across student responses?
- What criteria or success indicators were used to determine whether student work demonstrated strong inference?
- How did the leader guide the team from analysis of student work to an actionable instructional plan?

Extension Option: Analyze Leader Impact on Instructional Clarity

Ask leaders to identify a moment in the video where teacher understanding or instructional clarity increased.

Prompt:

- What facilitation move, question, or piece of evidence prompted the shift in thinking?
- How might you intentionally plan for a similar moment in your own Cluster meetings?

2. Leadership Application Task

Have Cluster leaders reflect on their own practice and identify one adjustment they will make in an upcoming Cluster.

Ask cluster leaders to plan:

- One facilitation move they will intentionally use (e.g., questioning, evidence collection, synthesis)
- Where this move fits within the 5 Steps for Effective Learning in Cluster
- How they will know the Cluster was effective (teacher actions, instructional plans, or student evidence)
- What feedback or follow-up coaching may be needed

Encourage leaders to revisit this video before their next Cluster and use it as a planning reference to strengthen consistency and instructional impact across teams.