

Sample Coaching Guide

ELA: Lesson Launch

The first few minutes of a lesson can make or break student engagement. When done right, the launch activates prior knowledge, sets a clear purpose, and builds momentum for learning.

This free sample shows what it looks like to **start strong**—with clear expectations, intentional co-teaching, and space for student discussion.

Inside, you'll get:

- A high-impact classroom video clip
- Time-stamped key “look-fors” and teacher moves
- Coaching prompts to support reflection and growth
- Practical tools to guide implementation

This is just the beginning.



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Sample Coaching Guide

ELA: Launching a Lesson

ELA: Launching a Lesson to Activate and Engage

Purpose

The launch of a lesson is critical for student success. This clip shows how intentional planning, co-teaching synergy, and clear expectations help students understand the task, engage early, and build confidence to participate in academic discussion.

Key Instructional Look Fors

✓ Naming Success Criteria

- Teachers clearly state what success looks like for students

✓ Tier 1 Scaffolding

- Teachers provide support all students can access

✓ Aligned Questions During Monitoring

- Use pre-planned prompts to deepen understanding

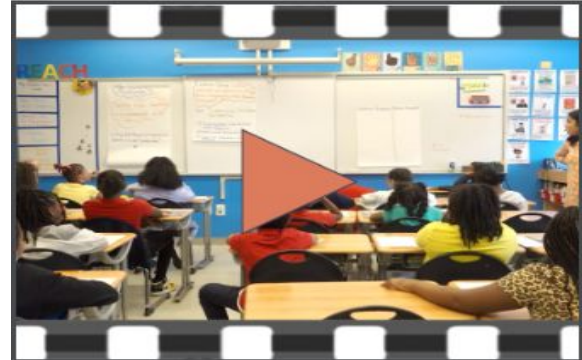
✓ Opportunities for Discussion

- Students talk about the task, using academic language

✓ Stamping the Learning

- Lesson ends with students summarizing the key takeaway

[Video Example: ELA: Launch](#)





5th Grade History


Context:


Teachers launch and lead a lesson on the American Revolution. This clip is ideal for training teachers on how to effectively launch a lesson and create space for student voice.


Key See It's in the Video:

 **0:35 - 1:10:** Before launching the task they named clear criteria for success for the students.

 **1:12 - 1:30:** They provided the students with a tier 1 scaffold to support learning

 **3:00 - 3:45:** Teachers planned, aligned on, and used the break it down questions during monitoring.

 **3:30 - 5:00:** Students were given more opportunities to discuss the topic at hand.

 **5:15 - end:** Students stamped learning at the end of the lesson.

Coaching Tips & Reflection

Reflect:

How did the teacher activate prior knowledge and set students up for success?

What made the launch feel student-centered and clear?

Focus the teacher one of the strategies in this clip:

Name clear success criteria before launching the task

Use a Tier 1 scaffold to support access to the text or task

Pre-plan aligned questions for monitoring student work

Create space for students to discuss and stamp the learning

Try scripting the lesson launch together in advance, and look for impact during the next observation.



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