

# Depth & Complexity

## SYMPOSIUM

ONLINE

March 6, 2021

**MANY DIFFERENT WORKSHOPS**  
FROM OUR OCTOBER 2020 SUMMIT WILL BE OFFERED.



**Symposium begins at 9:00 am CST**  
(10:00 am EST/7:00 am PST)

*Breakout sessions generally fall into the categories below, but there will be some cross-over. Remember that if you can't make one, you'll have access to the recordings for six months after the event.*

*Making D&C STICK*

SECONDARY  
*Teachers*  
THE BEST  
*Practices*

CURRICULUM  
WRITING  
LESSON  
CREATION

ADMINISTRATOR'S  
and  
COORDINATOR'S  
CORNER

*Effectively*  
USING D&C  
*Resources*

D&C  
AND  
the BELL

High-LEVEL  
QUESTIONING  
with D&C

### Breakout Session ONE

9:00 - 9:55 a.m. CST

- Introduction to Depth & Complexity for Secondary Teachers  
*Dr. Carrie Simpson*
- But....How do I Get Started? Three Simple, Quick Ways to Start Running with Depth & Complexity  
*Sunny Bonnell*
- Don't Forget Those Higher Level Thinking Skills *Kim Tredick*
- MORE COMPLEX Tiered and Differentiated Questions with Depth & Complexity *Marcy Voss*
- The Magic Magnets *Daniel Brillhart*
- Adventures in Analysis *Misty Lewin*

### Breakout Session TWO

10:10 - 11:00 a.m. CST

- 4-3-2-1 - Creating Leveled, Rigorous Questions with Depth & Complexity Icons *Dr. Carrie Simpson*
- Multiple Perspectives Across the Disciplines: Utilizing the Viewpoints of Experts *Kim Tredick*
- The Math Connection: Making Depth & Complexity Align with Mathematics *Daniel Brillhart*
- Depth, Complexity, and the Core Curriculum *Clint Rodriguez*
- Depth & Complexity with Research Projects *Sunny Bonnell*
- Using Depth & Complexity in a Bilingual Classroom *Nick Castilleja*
- Raising the Cognitive Demand for All Students: The Making of Depth & Complexity Schools and Districts *Dr. Sandy Conklin*

### Breakout Session THREE

11:15- Noon CST

- Coordinating Coordinators: The Gifted Department's Gameplan to District Integration *Kristin Graham*
- Loaded Questions: Using Depth & Complexity to Ignite Engagement and Debate *Nick Castilleja*
- Examining the Details, Patterns and Rules of Successfully using Depth & Complexity in any Math Lesson *Daniel Brillhart*
- Digitizing D & C Planning: Resources to Know *Blythe Brown*
- Promoting Complexity with Hexagonal Thinking *Clint Rodriguez*
- Inquiring Minds Want to Know: PBL and Depth & Complexity *Vanessa Heller*
- Raising the Bar: Teaching ELLs with Depth & Complexity *Marcy Voss*

## **Introduction to Depth and Complexity for Secondary Teachers**

**Presenter: Dr. Carrie Simpson**

Secondary teachers face different challenges when it comes to introducing and using Depth & Complexity with their students. Join a secondary practitioner, speaking secondary teacher language, to explore the best strategies for introducing and using the Depth & Complexity Icons with middle and high school students. Leave this session ready to incorporate Depth & Complexity in a virtual or in-person setting right away.

## **But....How do I Get Started? Three Simple, Quick Ways to Start Running with Depth & Complexity**

**Presenter: Sunny Bonnacarrere**

Thousands of educators are trained annually on techniques to use Depth & Complexity. And while the presentations are typically informative and well-received, only a handful return to their rooms (or computers during this past year) and begin using the Framework. Even worse, some educators just plaster a set of Icon Cards on their wall to confirm a differentiated learning environment. In this session, we'll focus on three simple, proven ways to introduce the Icons and ensure your students internalize the concepts. Once they start running with the D & C Thinking Tools, you'll have a hard time keeping up.

## **Don't Forget Those Higher Level Thinking Skills**

**Presenter: Kim Tredick**

The Icons of Depth & Complexity were designed to be used in conjunction with various levels of thinking skills. Unfortunately, educators sometimes focus on teaching the Icon itself, lowering the level of thinking complementing the prompt. Using varied levels of critical thinking skills, even with the same Icon, significantly boosts cognitive demand. When an intentional priority is made to create experiences layered with more robust thinking, the Depth & Complexity Icons become even more versatile and powerful. Spend some time climbing the levels of thinking skills to strengthen the Depth & Complexity experience.

## **MORE COMPLEX Tiered and Differentiated Questions with Depth & Complexity** *Presenter: Marcy Voss*

Questions embedded with Depth & Complexity Icons often lack challenge and highlight basic thinking skills. Learn how to climb the D & C Questioning Ladder through the addition of critical thinking skills and iconic combinations. Several samples will be provided and participants will have opportunities to write questions related to their own content. Empower students to develop their own challenging questions that spark curiosity and exhibit an in-depth understanding of content. A quick overview of the Depth & Complexity Framework and 11 Icons of Depth & Complexity will be covered.

## **The Magic Magnets** *Presenter: Daniel Brillhart*

The Depth & Complexity Magnet set is the most widely-used product in the Depth & Complexity Universe - by far. Eleven 4" x 6" magnets used independently and in conjunction give teachers power to create magic in the classroom. Explore several different low-prep ways for using the Depth & Complexity Magnets to appropriately challenge and differentiate throughout the disciplines. Simple, yet versatile, the magnets will be your "go-to" tool time and time again.

## **Adventures in Analysis** *Presenter: Misty Lewin*

Adventure begins with a wonder. Curiosity arouses our mindful motivation. Join us as we embark on a unique and innovative Adventure in Wonderland with Depth & Complexity as our Curricular Compass. Explorers will experience engaging au courant pathways to excite, entice, and deepen the learning of both virtual and vis-a-vis learners. Samples of student learning will be shared.

### **4-3-2-1 - Creating Leveled, Rigorous Questions with Depth & Complexity Icons** *Presenter: Dr. Carrie Simpson*

Developing meaningful, challenging questions is a difficult task for both students and educators. In this session, participants will move from creating a one-icon question to composing one with four or more icons embedded. Practicing this gradual increase in how questions are asked will benefit students as they use the Iconic lenses to ponder and analyze content in abstract, deep ways. New sample topics will be provided along with some time to practice with personalized content.

### **Multiple Perspectives Across the Disciplines: Utilizing the Viewpoints of Experts** *Presenter: Kim Tredick*

Encourage your students to gain knowledge of how experts in different disciplines work and learn. Prepare your students to “think like a” sociologist, economist, or biologist, while analyzing the same piece of content. Better yet, let’s transform the students into these expert disciplinarians! Thinking like a disciplinarian/becoming an expert, one of the core components of the Depth & Complexity Framework, allows students to make relevant connections across the disciplines.

### **The Math Connection: Making Depth & Complexity Align with Mathematics** *Presenter: Daniel Brillhart*

Educators tend to ignore Depth & Complexity when teaching mathematics. The opinion that math is too objective to warrant using the open-ended Depth & Complexity Framework often prevents an attempt to differentiate within this challenging subject. In this session, participants will pair overarching mathematical concepts with numerous Depth & Complexity Icons to understand some of the natural connections between the Framework and the discipline. You’ll approach math instruction in a whole new light.

### **Depth, Complexity, and the Core Curriculum** *Presenter: Clint Rodriguez*

The beauty of the Depth & Complexity icons lies in their flexibility. Intentional implementation can be achieved easily in just a few steps. Learn how to embed Depth & Complexity in your everyday lesson planning without creating lots of extra work for yourself. The samples in this session will come from secondary content, and while developed with secondary teachers in mind, a model for seamlessly embedding iconic prompts into planning for any grade level will be shared.

**Depth & Complexity with Research Projects** *Presenter: Sunny Bonnacarrere*

Learn how to use Depth & Complexity Icons to broaden your students' abilities to analyze and synthesize information. Research projects take on a new life when students explore topics through the various lenses of the icons. Learners will gain valuable research skills in this easy to differentiate session.

**Using Depth and Complexity in a Bilingual Classroom**

*Presenter: Nick Castilleja*

Depth & Complexity is appropriate to use with all levels of learners. Over the past several years, there has been a growing movement away from "pigeon-holing" the Framework into Gifted Education and towards overarching implementation to benefit all students. This session highlights research from a comprehensive graduate study that will guide and embolden bilingual teachers to use Depth & Complexity in a manner that is defensible for ELLs. Student and content examples are provided to help bridge the gap between data and practice.

**Raising the Cognitive Demand for All Students: The Making of Depth & Complexity Schools and Districts** *Presenter: Dr. Sandy Conklin*

Administrators are tasked with providing solutions for educators to prompt students to maximize achievement. A significant challenge is providing practitioners with concrete tools that elicit the highest levels of thinking and exceed perceived potential. The Depth & Complexity Framework is the answer to these challenges! Multiple examples of one Fort Worth school's journey through introduction to implementation will be shared. Learning at their campus transformed as depth and complexity became the pedagogical engine driving deep understanding and learning. Ideas on how to lay the foundation for full implementation of the Framework across districts will be discussed.

### **Coordinating Coordinators: The Gifted Department's Gameplan to District Integration** *Presenter: Kristin Graham*

During a keynote address at a 2006 conference, Bette Gould, the co-creator of the Depth & Complexity Framework was quoted as saying “depth and complexity...these tools should be accessible and available to all students. It raises the ceiling and maximizes thinking potential for everyone.” While this viewpoint is echoed by most educators employing the Framework, Depth & Complexity often lives exclusively within district Gifted Programs. Learn a few methods to expand the Framework's influence not only in your G/T Program, but into other departments and schools throughout the district.

### **Loaded Questions: Using Depth and Complexity to Ignite Engagement and Debate** *Presenter: Nick Castilleja*

Discuss engaging questions involving big ideas, multiple perspectives, and ethics that will fuel a respectful civil discourse with students. Is it ever ethical to break the rules? Are ethics subjective or objective? Content covered will include a quick introduction to Kantian ethics while exploring the infamous interaction between the Titanic and the SS California, as well as examples of civil disobedience during the Montgomery Bus Boycotts. Participants will be given an opportunity to engage in civil discourse in a similar fashion as they will provide for students. Use this strategy virtually or in-person as your students become profound, big-picture thinkers.

### **Examining the Details, Patterns and Rules of Successfully using Depth & Complexity in any Math Lesson** *Presenter: Daniel Brillhart*

Delve deeper into the world of Depth & Complexity in Mathematics. In this session, we'll turn up the heat on Daniel (we are literally planting a heat lamp in his room...shhh) as he modifies participants' math content live-time. Content from elementary and secondary levels will be covered and time will be provided to practice painless ways to differentiate your current math instruction.

**Digitizing D & C Planning: Resources to Know** *Presenter: Blythe Brown*

The incredible challenges faced over the past year can be simplified with some of the digital tools created by J Taylor Education. Familiarize yourself with ways to streamline differentiation while promoting and supporting students to reach new heights using the new online resources. While they've come in handy during the virtual/hybrid year of instruction, these tools will be just as valuable when all students are back in school full time.

**Promoting Complexity with Hexagonal Thinking** *Presenter: Clint Rodriguez*

Helping students identify relationships between topics is a key part of the depth and complexity framework. Using interactive hexagonal thinking and writing prompts, students can explore the ways in which different combinations of icons and topics can lead to the formulation of sophisticated Big Ideas about how concepts interact with one another.

**Inquiring Minds Want to Know: PBL and Depth & Complexity**

*Presenter: Vanessa Heller*

The process of inquiry creates a hands-on, minds-on approach to learning and critical thinking. Inquiry/PBL appeals to many students who think not just outside of the box, but far beyond it. Participants will learn what inquiry/pbl is, the commonalities among its models, and how best practices in gifted education, such as the icons and Universal Themes, blend seamlessly with the stages of the inquiry cycle to promote deeper learning, critical thinking, and a desire to create change for the better.

**Raising the Bar: Teaching ELLs with Depth & Complexity**

*Presenter: Marcy Voss*

Discover how to increase the rigor of instruction and provide ELLs with the opportunity to exhibit in-depth, complex thinking while also increasing achievement and proficiency in English. Examples of instruction that integrates both depth and complexity and second language acquisition will be shared, as well as student products in the Dual-Language Classroom.

Session #	Time	Session Title
Session 1	9:00 am – 9:55 am	
Session 2	10:10 am – 11:00 am	
Session 3	11:15 am – 12:00 pm	

Breakout Session **ONE**

9:00 - 9:55 a.m. CST

- Introduction to Depth & Complexity for Secondary Teachers *Dr. Carrie Simpson*
- But....How do I Get Started? Three Simple, Quick Ways to Start Running with Depth & Complexity *Sunny Bonnacarrere*
- Don't Forget Those Higher Level Thinking Skills *Kim Tredick*
- MORE COMPLEX Tiered and Differentiated Questions with Depth & Complexity *Marcy Voss*
- The Magic Magnets *Daniel Brillhart*
- Adventures in Analysis *Misty Lewin*

Breakout Session **TWO**

10:10 - 11:00 a.m. CST

- 4-3-2-1 - Creating Levelled, Rigorous Questions with Depth & Complexity Icons *Dr. Carrie Simpson*
- Multiple Perspectives Across the Disciplines: Utilizing the Viewpoints of Experts *Kim Tredick*
- The Math Connection: Making Depth & Complexity Align with Mathematics *Daniel Brillhart*
- Depth, Complexity, and the Core Curriculum *Clint Rodriguez*
- Depth & Complexity with Research Projects *Sunny Bonnacarrere*
- Using Depth & Complexity in a Bilingual Classroom *Nick Castilleja*
- Raising the Cognitive Demand for All Students: The Making of Depth & Complexity Schools and Districts *Dr. Sandy Conklin*

Breakout Session **THREE**

11:15-Noon CST

- Coordinating Coordinators: The Gifted Department's Gameplan to District Integration *Kristin Graham*
- Loaded Questions: Using Depth & Complexity to Ignite Engagement and Debate *Nick Castilleja*
- Examining the Details, Patterns and Rules of Successfully using Depth & Complexity in any Math Lesson *Daniel Brillhart*
- Digitizing D & C Planning: Resources to Know *Blythe Brown*
- Promoting Complexity with Hexagonal Thinking *Clint Rodriguez*
- Inquiring Minds Want to Know: PBL and Depth & Complexity *Vanessa Heller*
- Raising the Bar: Teaching ELLs with Depth & Complexity *Marcy Voss*

## Our Presenters

**Sunny Bonnacarrere** began her career as an educator in 2005. She has taught all elementary grade levels as a classroom teacher and gifted specialist. She currently works as an Instructional Technology Specialist in Round Rock ISD. Sunny joined J Taylor Education's Depth & Complexity consulting team a few years ago and has quickly become one of its most requested trainers. Her practical and relatable presentation techniques are popular with teachers as they discover numerous ways to implement depth and complexity into instructional practices right away.

**Daniel Brillhart** is the 2016 TAGT Educator of the Gifted. He has taught a wide range of subjects across all levels, primary and secondary, during his 30 year career. Currently, Daniel serves as the GT Specialist for his campus and on district GT leadership committees. Daniel has presented on Depth & Complexity at the campus, district, state, and national level. He utilizes the Depth & Complexity Framework in his classroom daily.

**Nick Castilleja** has been a teacher and leader across the state of Washington for 12 years. Throughout his wide variety of educational experience in grades K-12, Nick has dedicated his efforts to write, deliver, and advocate for curriculum and instruction that is dynamic, challenging, and engaging. Nick leads general and highly capable 6th grade ELA/Social Studies classes comprised of mostly English language learners at Stevens Middle School in Pasco, Washington and serves on the board for the Washington Educators Association for the Talented and Gifted (WAETAG). After sharpening his skills during his graduate work at Whitworth University in Gifted and Talented Education, Nick also began delivering professional development sessions on tailoring engaging learning environments, differentiating instruction, Project-Based Learning, how to identify and serve gifted English language learners, and curriculum writing for gifted students.

**Vanessa Heller** is Gold Coast CUE's Outstanding Educator for 2020 and in her 23rd year of teaching. She's currently a middle school humanities teacher for Oak Park Unified. Vanessa serves as director and lead trainer of the Oak Park Inquiry Institute, site GATE Coordinator, and site representative to her district's Diversity and Equity Task Force. She regularly presents best practices in inquiry/PBL and gifted education throughout California and beyond. In her spare time, Ms. Heller facilitates Teachers for Equity, a collective of educators and administrators furthering diversity and equity endeavors in schools. She is a wife, mom to two talented teenage daughters and 4 cats, and is never far from a local conference, a good edu-read, or a Twitter chat.

**Blythe Brown**, an Advanced Academics Specialist in Clear Creek ISD, has 20+ years of experience in education. Her classroom experience ranges from departmentalized to self-contained upper elementary teacher, Math Instructional Coach, and Advanced Academics Specialist. Blythe enjoys serving on multiple Texas Association for the Gifted committees and loves sharing her passion for gifted learners with other educators. Blythe was honored to receive the Texas Association of Gifted and Talented Innovator of the Year in 2016.

**Dr. Sandy Conklin** has been the impetus for high-level instruction as an administrator for the past 17 years. His school has been recognized for character education and academic excellence. In 2016, Dr. Conklin was awarded the title of HEB Excellence in Education Principal of the Year. He is passionate about working with colleagues to improve teaching and learning, and travels around the U.S. sharing successful strategies for implementing Depth & Complexity school-wide. Dr. Conklin currently serves as Area Executive Director for Goose Creek ISD.

**Kristin Graham** is in her 13th year as an educator. She is currently an Advanced Academics Facilitator in Spring Branch ISD in Houston, TX. She has developed an array of experience as an elementary and high school teacher in urban and rural areas, as well as in Shanghai, China. She is also an active member of the Texas Association for the Gifted & Talented where she loves opportunities to learn from her peers. Her current interests are in helping to identify the needs of underserved populations and helping build partnerships with parents to better understand their gifted children.

## Our Presenters

**Misty Lewin** is an Honors Graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and served as an inspirational speaker at the graduation ceremonies. Mrs. Lewin has thrived in the field of education for 20 years. She served as a Director for 8 years in private education and has taught in the public education classroom for 12 years as a Kindergarten Teacher, 1st grade Teacher, and Gifted and Talented Teacher. Mrs. Lewin was Teacher of the Year for her campus and was named Frisco ISD Teacher of the Year in 2019. She has had the honor of presenting for staff across the Frisco Independent School District and is proud to have presented for TAGT at giftED20. Mrs. Lewin is a fierce fan of Depth and Complexity and is thrilled to share exciting new ideas with all of you!

**Clint Rodriguez** currently serves as a regional gifted and talented and advanced academics consultant in North Texas. Previously, he coordinated secondary gifted education programs and services in Richardson ISD and taught middle school humanities at ASPIRE Academy for the Highly Gifted in Grapevine-Colleyville ISD. He has a master's degree in Religious Studies from the University of Kansas. Clint is quickly becoming a popular and sought after Depth and Complexity trainer.

**Dr. Carrie Simpson** has made a career of understanding, researching, and utilizing differentiated instruction as part of the foundation for teaching. Her work in the field of gifted education, followed by curriculum development and teacher training in the field of special needs brought her to one steadfast understanding: differentiation is paramount to student success. Currently, Dr. Simpson continues to hone her skills in the craft of differentiation by teaching Humanities courses for Austin Community College, working with the ACC ECHS programs, and through online instruction for the University of Texas at Dallas' Teacher Development Center, teaching courses on Differentiation for Diverse Student Populations. The Depth & Complexity Framework is a significant part of her work and reinforces her beliefs that potent bursts of excellent instruction help us meet student needs.

**Kim Tredick** is currently the Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services in the Castaic School District in Southern California. She has served as lead curriculum writer for J Taylor Education since 2006 and has been using Depth & Complexity for three decades as a teacher, principal, and district administrator. In 2006, she was awarded the Milken National Educator award for her work with differentiation. Kim is the author of the best-selling Differentiation Smart Reference Guide, which is used in over 30,000 classrooms. As one of the original participating educators during the first PD rollout of Depth & Complexity in the 1990s, Kim provides teachers with practical, best practices for using all the components of the D & C Framework.

**Parker Tredick** has been a Depth & Complexity consultant for J Taylor Education since 2019. He began his teaching career at the Middle School level in Southern California. Parker recently moved to Oklahoma and is a biology teacher at Broken Arrow Freshman Academy. He has been instrumental in helping J Taylor create its Depth & Complexity Video Library, which will launch in February 2021.

**Marcy Voss** recently retired after 36 years in public education. During her career, she coordinated Gifted and Special Programs in several districts, as well as served on the Commissioner's Gifted and Talented Advisory Council and the TAGT Board. Marcy currently serves as Facilitator for the TAGT Emerging Leaders Program in addition to working as an ELL Coach, curriculum writer, and staff development trainer. She is also the parent of three gifted children.