

Exercise: Explore Gradual Release of Responsibility

This chapter provides a research-based model for building well-orchestrated lessons—gradual release of responsibility. Chapters 7 (page 165) and 8 (page 205) will dig deeper into instructional planning, addressing aspects of high-quality literacy instruction and myriad instructional strategies. At the end of chapter 8, teams can participate in an exercise to design lessons implementing gradual release of responsibility (page 225). For now, discuss this model with your colleagues, and record ideas your team can revisit after reading the upcoming chapters.

Use the following questions to guide this exercise.

- What gradual release of responsibility lessons have members of our team taught with success? Share specifics.

- Which learning progression line items would benefit from a gradual release of responsibility lesson?

- How can we strengthen an existing lesson by incorporating gradual release of responsibility? Share specific ideas.

- How can we plan instruction that gradually relinquishes teacher support and addresses each step in the gradual release of responsibility model?