**Session 8: Engaging Students in Critical Reading Skills (Science)**

**Objectives**

Teachers will consider how they can leverage high-interest science news stories to increase student motivation to engage in rigorous science learning.

**Guiding Questions**

* How might science news stories capture students’ natural interests to engage them in learning science content, concepts and practices?

**Facilitator Notes**

This session requires teachers to have access to the internet, and specifically to <http://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org> as a source of science news articles. The session is designed around an article on lead levels in school drinking water, but with a little tweaking of the PowerPoint, a different article can be selected from the site if desired.

**Materials/Procedure**

Handout 8Sci.1 (Teacher Reflection Questions)

Computer and internet access are needed. Session could be set up in computer lab or in classroom at tables for small groups if all teachers have their own laptops.

**Introduction (7 minutes)**

Facilitator introduces guiding question and previews agenda (Slides 2-3). Set the stage for the activity with brief discussion of the problem of lead in drinking water (Slides 4-5). Introduce Science News for Students website, with teachers using computers to navigate to site. Teachers can get to the “Lead Levels in School Drinking Water” article by searching the website if computers are not pre-loaded with a direct link to the article (use “lead levels in school drinking water” in magnifying glass Search space at upper right of Science News for Students homepage).

**Teachers Experience Pair Reading Exercise (15-20 minutes)**

Emphasize to teachers that this segment is designed to allow them to experience and debrief an activity they can use with their students in their own classrooms. Teachers group together in pairs (with a group of 3 if necessary, or facilitator can work with teacher who has no partner). Follow directions on Slide 7 for pair reading (teachers will probably want to read silently and then summarize paragraphs in turn).

**Large Group Debrief (10 minutes)**

Teachers discuss questions on Slide 10 (thoughts about experience, how students might respond to it, how this type of activity might address the curriculum).

Facilitator encourages teachers to reflect on conceptual shifts in the Next Generation Science Standards (Slides 11-12).

**Individual or Small Group Time to Browse Science News Website (15 minutes)**

Teachers have time to explore the website (<https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org>) to identify news pieces that could align with upcoming curriculum and to think about what would be needed to use the news articles in their classrooms (Slide 13).

**Teacher Reflection (5 minutes)**

Teachers have time to reflect using questions on Slide 14 and Handout 8Sci.1.