Frequently Asked Questions About Book Studies

1. How should I structure my book study?

There are a variety of ways to structure a book study. Some schools have teachers work in small groups as they progress through the chapters. Other schools ask different teams, departments, or grade levels to present one chapter at a faculty meeting.

2. How much time should I spend on each chapter?

That also depends on your structure, and your school schedule. If you would like to work on a compressed schedule, you can do one chapter per week. I prefer to have more reflection time, so two weeks per chapter works as a minimum. I've also worked with schools that do one chapter a month.

3. Are there specific questions that should guide our work?

For Rigor Made Easy, you have study guide questions for both teachers and leaders, also available on the free downloads section of Barbara's website. There is also a facilitator's guide of suggestions for use before, during, and after reading the book.



For Rigor is NOT a Four-Letter Word, the reflective questions are built into the book for easy reference. There is a similar facilitator's guide in the downloads section.

4. Are there any other suggestions you have for schools?

For the five middle chapters of each book (Raise Level of Content, Increase Complexity, Give Appropriate Support and Guidance, Open Your Focus, and Raise Expectations), it's important to implement activities so teachers are applying their learning. I encourage you to have teachers share what they tried, as well as samples of student work, with you or with other teachers.