Australian Curriculum
SA Teachers & Leaders Resource

The essence of English – the essentials in English learning

The intent of this workshop is to think about the essence of the Australian Curriculum: English. Professor Barbara Comber, a prominent literacy researcher, describes the essentials in English learning.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Description	Time
1 | Let's begin – our initial thinking 1 Form a group of three. 2 Choose one person to record and one to time keep. 3 Share your initial thinking of what you think is essential in English learning. 4 Recorder: Present 3 ideas back to the whole group.	5 min
2 | Introduction In this workshop we hear from expert Professor Barbara Comber. We will discuss her thinking and analyse how this fits with our own.	2 min
3 | Learning process 1 Watch the video clip[1] of Professor Comber (3.34 min). 2 Personal reflection – While watching the clip reflect on the following: a) What are Professor Comber's main points? b) How does this connect with my current understanding of English? c) What was new for me? 3 Group discussion: • Pool your main points from a) and cluster them by theme. • How does the expert opinion fit with our individual and shared understandings of the 'essence' of English? • Share your c) responses and identify any patterns in this.	25 min
4 | Summary of learning What is our agreed position about the essence of English – the essentials in English learning? As a table group complete this statement: **The essence of English is:**	5 min

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[1] TLinSA.ti.cc/EnglishComber

5 | Commitment to action

We know that choosing and using language for different purposes, contexts and audiences is essential in English learning.

The one thing I will do is to include a focus on choosing and using language for different purposes, contexts and audiences when designing learning in English is:

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by ..... **and I will check-in with** .....

Government of South Australia
Department for Education