



Ayala High's English teachers focus on critical thinking

With the increased call for 21st Century skills in the global workforce, Ayala High School's English faculty recently collaborated to develop lessons to engage student's critical thinking in addition to mastering Common Core English Language Standards.

Ayala's English teachers used their professional learning time on Sept. 21 to review a Critical Thinking rubric (assessment document) and develop lessons to engage students' critical thinking skills.

"In the global economy, basic recall is no longer a skill that is needed with the advent of smart phones," said Grace Lee, director of professional development for Chino Valley Unified School District. "Rather, the need is for students to apply the 4C's -- Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication and Creativity -- in their work."

"There was passion and energy as our English faculty collaborated to examine classroom practices in critical thinking and Common Core ELA shifts," said Ayala High Principal Diana Yarboi. "I am truly amazed and excited to see our English faculty paving the way for our students. I have a lot of respect for the work that they do on a daily basis to ensure our students are achieving in college and career.

The next steps for Ayala will be to implement the critical thinking rubric within all current English Language Arts units and lessons, as well as implement Microsoft Office 365 within all classrooms, Yarboi said.

"The time during this professional development day was great to plan, review, and establish goals for the rest of the school year," she said.