

CCSS in the Middle School ELA Classroom

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Common Core State Standards

- Definition: Outline what students should know and be able to do in reading and mathematics in K-12 grades. The standards align with the knowledge and skills needed to successfully enter college or the workforce, are benchmarked to the standards of the world's top-performing countries, and mark the first time that states share a common set of expectations for the nation's students.



Frequently Asked Questions

- ▶ What are the common core state standards?
 - ▶ Academic learning goals that are replacing the GLE's and are based on Bloom's Taxonomy
- ▶ Who created the Common Core?
 - ▶ Created by the states for the states.
 - ▶ Hundreds of teachers across the country collaborated in developing the common core.

Frequently Asked Questions Cont.

- ▶ How will the Common Core improve the quality of education?
 - ▶ Master the material – you go deeper into the concepts with fewer topics
 - ▶ Critical Thinking – Students will take the basic knowledge and build on it to get to a much deeper level
 - ▶ Teacher collaboration – The test will be the same around the US, so you are able to share and learn from even more people.
 - ▶ Consistent, high expectations for all students -- Students will have the same standards across the nation at all grade levels.

Frequently Asked Questions Cont.

- ▶ What does CCSS in the ELA classroom mean?
 - ▶ CCSS stands for Common Core State Standards
 - ▶ ELA stands for English Language Arts
 - ▶ Meaning: Standards for the Language Arts Classroom
- ▶ What standards are included in ELA CCSS?
 - ▶ Reading
 - ▶ Literature (45% of the test)
 - ▶ Informational text (55% of the test)
 - ▶ Writing
 - ▶ Language
 - ▶ Speaking and Listening



Key concepts that are changing

▶ Language Standards

- ▶ 6th grade: Pronouns – very detailed

▶ Writing Standards

- ▶ Argumentative is the new term for persuasive
 - ▶ Must show both sides of the argument and refute the opposing side
- ▶ Informative/Explanatory is the new term for expository
- ▶ Narrative has been added back to middle school
- ▶ Keyboarding skills are necessary (ie: 3 pages in a single setting in 6th grade).



Key Concepts that are changing

▶ Reading Standards

- ▶ Informational text – huge emphasis
- ▶ Informational strands need to be taught in content areas not just ELA
- ▶ Cite textual evidence as support

CAT (Computer Adaptive Testing)

- ▶ The computer program adjusts the difficulty of questions throughout the assessment.
- ▶ The test will draw from a large bank of questions.
- ▶ The results will be available within weeks instead of months later
- ▶ This is similar to the MSP test in that you have multiple choice answers, completion answers and short answer questions.
- ▶ This is similar to the MAP test also because it is adaptive and gives you results quickly.



Performance Tasks

- This is similar to NOTHING we have done before
- You will start the test the day before with a class activity
 - Some sort of visual (picture, video, etc.) with discussion questions
 - Students will be given the opportunity to get some prior knowledge of the subject before taking the test
- You will have 3-5 sources of information given to the students



Engagement

- ▶ School wide Theme: Lights, Camera, College!
- ▶ Recognizing students from the year before that passed the test.
- ▶ Visuals created at the beginning of the year to emphasis the theme and SBAC practice all year.
- ▶ Token Economy: mini-wow cards
 - ▶ Kids are given mini-wows when they do well on SBAC tests
- ▶ Celebrations for passing practice tests
 - ▶ Students are given the opportunity for re-teaching as well as a celebration
- ▶ Pep Assemblies always include something about the SBAC test
- ▶ Dress up days follow the school wide theme
- ▶ Door Decorating 2 weeks before the test -- incorporating school wide theme and SBAC
- ▶ SBAC Trivia questions over the announcements – prizes for the winners



Bulletin Board Examples for the Hollywood theme!