



Literacy Connects

A Content Literacy Newsletter from Regional Professional Development Program-Issue LI



Common Core Resources at a Glance

The change to the new CCSS has brought with it a proliferation of resources. The purpose of this issue of Literacy Connects is to present a few of the most useful and reliable resources for the CCSS that are currently available on the Internet.

Understanding the CCSS:

- Edutopia.org has a comprehensive list of resources for understanding the Common Core State Standards. It has resources on when and how they started, all the documents, including all the assessments created by PARCC and SBAC. It's your "one stop shopping" for the CCSS.
- Commoncore.tcoe.org has posted a break-down of all the ELA standards, including the essential skills/concepts, question stems, and teaching notes and resources for each standard.

CCSS Curriculum:

- Achievethecore.org was developed by lead writers of the CCSS; this site provides excellent lesson plans on close reading exemplar texts and writing and responding to text based questions.
- New York City DOE has fabulous Common Core units for all grades levels.
- Engage NY is the central site for educators in New York working to implement the CCSS. It contains assessments and curriculum modules, including exemplar unit plans and student handouts.

Text Resources

- The New York Times website for teachers has great lesson plans based on NY Times articles. Good for all subjects, covers all topics and is current.
- Tweentribune.com is a great site for current events, science, and other non-fiction articles for tweens and teens. The articles are short and the readability is appropriate for ages 12 – 16.
- Procon.org has resources (articles, timelines, links, interviews, etc.) on over 40 different controversial topics. Designed for debate, it has excellent resources for any type of reading and writing assignments that focus on relevant and controversial issues in all content areas.

Assessments

- Smarterbalanced.org is the site for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). This is the group developing Nevada's new 2014 assessments aligned to the CCSS in English language arts/literacy and mathematics. Draft assessments and all relevant assessment information are posted and updated regularly.
- The Ohio Department of Education site has excellent sample reading and writing assessments for all grade levels aligned to the CCSS.
- The Nevada DOE has posted new guidelines and rubrics for writing proficiency grades 5 and 8 and newly released CRT items for grades 3 – 8.

Teaching and Learning Videos

- Teachingchannel.org is the BEST I've seen for valuable videos on teaching and learning—all content areas and grade levels. It has videos on lesson design and implementation, strategies, text analysis, cooperative groups, and strategies for the CCSS.
- Engage is the New York site that is referenced under curriculum. Once in the video library, you can search the following:
 - **Common Core Video Series**—videos created by the developers of the CCSS about the CCSS.
 - **Video Series for Teachers and Educator Reflections**—lessons for and by teachers
 - **Common Core in the Classroom**—lessons aligned to CCSS
 - **Rigor Breakdown**—takes a difficult CC standard and shows how one teacher makes it accessible to students.

Visit the RPDP website (www.rpdp.net) for a complete selection of *Literacy Connects*.