

Common Core Shifts English Language Arts Literacy (ELA)

There are six shifts that the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in ELA and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects require of us if we are to be truly aligned with the CCSS in terms of curricular materials and classroom instruction.

Shifts in ELA/Literacy

Informational Text K-5	Informational text is split into two shifts. Classrooms are places where students access the world – science, social studies, the arts and literature – through informational and literary text. In elementary, at least 50 percent of what students read is informational; in middle school, it is 55 percent; and by the end of high school, it is 70 percent. Increasing the amount of informational text students read K-12 will prepare them to read college and career-ready texts.
Informational Text 6-12	
Text Complexity	In order to prepare students for the complexity of college and career-ready texts, each grade level requires growth in text complexity. Students read the central, grade-appropriate text around which instruction is centered. Teachers create more time in the curriculum for close and careful reading and provide appropriate and necessary supports to make the central text accessible to students reading below grade level.
Academic Vocabulary	Students constantly build the vocabulary they need to be able to access grade-level complex texts. By focusing strategically on comprehension of pivotal and commonly found words (such as “discourse,” “generation,” “theory,” and “principled”) teachers constantly build students’ ability to access more complex texts across the content areas.
Text-Dependent Questions	Students have rich and rigorous conversations which are dependent on students reading a central text. Teachers ensure classroom experiences stay deeply connected to the text and that students develop habits for making evidentiary arguments based on the text, both in conversation as well as in writing, to assess their comprehension of a text.
Writing to Sources	Writing instruction emphasizes use of evidence to inform or to make an argument; it includes short, focused research projects K-12. Students K-12 develop college and career-ready skills through written arguments that respond to the ideas, events, facts, and arguments presented in the texts they listen to and read.

