# NEW YORK CCSS INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICE GUIDE



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS / LITERACY



**GRADES 3-5** 

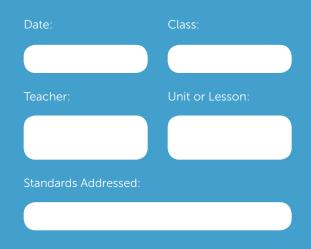


This guide provides concrete examples of what the Core Actions for implementing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts and Literacy in grades 3-5 look like in daily planning and practice. It is designed as a developmental tool for teachers and those who support teachers and can be used to observe a lesson and provide feedback or to guide lesson planning and reflection. For all uses, refer to the CCSS for English Language Arts and Literacy (corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy).

The Shifts required by the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy are<sup>1</sup>:

- 1. Balancing Informational and Literary Text
- 2. Building Knowledge in the Disciplines
- 3. Staircase of Complexity

- 4. Text-Based Answers
- 5. Writing From Sources
- 6. Academic Vocabulary



The Core Actions should be evident in planning and observable in instruction. For each lesson, artifacts or observables might include: lesson plan, text(s) and materials, tasks, teacher instruction, student discussion and behavior, and student work. When observing a portion of a lesson, some indicators may be appropriately left blank.

### CORE ACTION 1: Focus each lesson on a high quality text (or multiple texts).

#### **EVIDENCE OBSERVED OR GATHERED INDICATORS** A. A majority of the lesson is Notes: spent reading, speaking, There is no text The lesson is listening, and/or writing under consideration focused on a text in this lesson. or multiple texts. about a text(s). B. The text(s) are at or above the complexity level The text(s) are below The text(s) are at or expected for the grade and both the quantitative above both the qualitative and qualitative and quantitative time in the school year.<sup>2</sup> complexity expected complexity expected for for the grade and time the grade and time in the in the school year. school year. C. The text(s) exhibit exceptional craft and The quality of the The quality of the thought and/or provide text(s) is low - they text(s) is high - they are poorly written useful information. are well written and/ and do not provide or provide useful useful information information.

2 Refer to achievethecore.org/ela-literacy-common-core/text-complexity/ for text complexity resources.

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Common Core Shifts at a Glance (achievethecore.org/ELALitShifts) for additional information about the Shifts required by the CCSS.







### CORE ACTION 2: Employ questions and tasks that are text dependent and text specific.

INDICATORS	EVIDENCE OBSER	RVED OR GATHERED
A. Questions and tasks address the text by attending to its particular structure, concepts, ideas, events and details.	Questions and tasks do not refer directly to the text and instead elicit opinion answers.	Questions and tasks repeatedly return students to the text to build understanding.
B. Questions and tasks require students to use details from text to demonstrate understanding and to support their ideas about the text. These ideas are expressed through both written and spoken responses.	Questions and tasks can be answered without reference to evidence from the text.	Questions and tasks require students to cite evidence from the text.
C. Questions and tasks attend to the academic language (i.e., vocabulary and syntax) in the text.	Questions and tasks do not explicitly attend to academic language or focus exclusively on domain-specific vocabulary.	Questions and tasks intentionally support students in developing facility with academic language.
D. Questions are sequenced to guide students in delving deeper into text and graphics. These inferences should relate to key ideas of the text.	Questions do not follow a clear sequence or are all at the same level of depth.	Questions are sequenced to support and challenge students in deep examination of the text.

## CORE ACTION 3: Provide all students with opportunities to engage in the work of the lesson.

CORE ACTION 5: Provide all students	the work of the tesson.	The teacher does not provide students	The teacher provides students opportunity	
INDICATORS	ILLUSTRATIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOR	EVIDENCE OBSERVED OR GATHERED	opportunity and very few students demonstrate this behavior.	consistently and all students demonstrate this behavior.
A. The teacher provides the conditions for all students to focus on text.	Students persist in efforts to read, speak and/or write about demanding grade-level text(s).	Notes:		
B. The teacher expects evidence and precision from students and probes students' answers accordingly.	Students habitually provide textual evidence to support answers and responses.			
C. The teacher creates the conditions for student conversations and plans tasks where students are encouraged to talk about each other's thinking.	Students use evidence to build on each other's observations or insights during discussion or collaboration.			
D. The teacher acts on knowledge of individual students to promote progress toward independence in grade-level literacy tasks.	When possible, students demonstrate independence in completing literacy tasks.			
E. When appropriate, the teacher explicitly and systematically attends to strengthening students' reading foundation skills.	Students demonstrate use of word level diagnostic skills, activating such strategies as needed to read with grade-level fluency and comprehension.			

This tool is for use by teachers, those providing support to teachers, and others working to implement the CCSS for English Language Arts and Literacy – it is not designed for use in evaluation. The guide is intended for use in conjunction with the CCSS Instructional Practice Guide: Supplement for Reflection Over the Course of the Year. Both tools are available at achievethecore.org/instructional-practice. To the extent possible under law, we have waived all copyright and related or neighboring rights to this work. Any and all components may be customized to meet the needs of any audience — they may be modified, reproduced, and

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