



ELA REPORTER



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YOUR PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERACY

PERSONALIZE YOUR LEARNING



Each month (or bi-monthly) we publish the ELA Reporter with the primary goal of keeping our Georgia teachers informed about research-based English Language Arts (ELA) instruction, best practices, conferences, professional learning opportunities, literary contests, and the like. Having up-to-date, relevant information is the hallmark of continual growth in any industry. The same is true for educators. It is important to stay abreast of current research and reforms in education so that our classroom instruction will reflect current practices.

Since we are in the business of building teacher leaders, we decided to offer various formats for professional development in this issue so that you can personalize your own learning experience. **Team-based professional growth:** Teaching Channel has designed a private, video-enabled professional learning platform to help teachers collaborate to build capacity. The Fisher and Frey Resource Center is another way to build capacity within your team. **Conference-based professional learning:** National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) is hosting a Literacy conference right here in Atlanta this July. The Teaching Excellence 2015 conference, sponsored by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), will be held this June in Nashville, Tennessee. **Self-paced learning:** we are in the process of updating/revising our ELA instructional resources to reflect the revised standards. GaDOE ELA staff has an exciting opportunity for interns to work with the division to strengthen and build our ELA resources. Also, the GaDOE ELA staff is embarking upon an audacious project with Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) to build a "home-grown" video library for professional learning.

One novel idea for personalizing your own professional learning experience is attending or organizing an Edcamp. Edcamp is not summer camp for teachers but is a "free, participatory event organized by educators for educators." Edcamp has no preset schedule of sessions or presenters; it is organized around participants collaboratively building a schedule of sessions to attend that day. If you are interested in attending an Edcamp event (there's one this summer in Fayetteville, GA), check out the Edcamp wiki (<http://edcamp.wikispaces.com>) for the complete calendar of events (also [Edcamp Atlanta](#)). Or if you are interested in organizing an Edcamp event, click [here](#) for the full article in the May 2014 issue of *Educational Leadership*.

As we usher out the current school year, prepare to rest up this summer, and look toward the 2015–2016 school year, I hope that you will use this as a guide to create and maintain your personal learning plan and take advantage of the many opportunities to facilitate your success.

~Stephanie Sanders

Georgia
Department
of Education

Richard Woods,
Georgia's School
Superintendent

"Educating Georgia's Future"



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TEACHING CHANNEL: USING VIDEO FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Teaching Channel Teams is a private, video-enabled, professional learning platform. At the center of Teams is Teaching Channel's award-winning, best-in-class, video library. This library can be added to with district-created videos and teacher-created videos that can easily be shared for coaching and reflection. With Teams, teachers and instructional leaders can collaborate in a secure environment, advancing teacher effectiveness and lifting student achievement.

Building a Repertoire of Strategies: 5 Essential Steps to Professional Learning

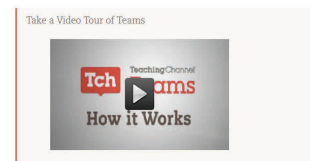
Based on extensive research and experience, the staff at Teaching Channel believes that teachers need

- a broad repertoire of strategies to reach all students
- professional learning opportunities where teachers learn by doing
- frequent, relevant feedback in a collegial environment

Teaching Channel Teams is built around our Theory of Professional Learning, which reflects our belief that learning is most effective when it:

- Is collaborative
- Is fueled by fresh ideas and models, analysis, many practice attempts, feedback, and more analysis
- Yields evidence

For more information on our professional learning platform, watch the [How it Works](#) video.



NCTE Summer Conference 2015

Literacies for All Summer Institute
July 9–11, 2015
Atlanta, Georgia



WLU Literacies for All Summer Institute

Sharing Our Stories: Re-visioning Our Worlds
Reading, Writing, and Taking Action

July 9-11, 2015 ■ Atlanta, Georgia

The 26th Literacies for All Summer Institute celebrates the 25th anniversary of the first WLU conference in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1990. The conference theme, *Sharing Our Stories: Re-visioning Our Worlds*, invites us to share stories of wonder and frustration as we explore language and literacy learning and teaching. We will reflect on whole language as a part of the historic tapestry of progressive education, democratic schools, and critical literacy.

The Literacies for All Summer Institute is a forum in which teachers and learners in this increasingly complex world can share their creative work. In whole language classrooms, curriculum builds from the experiences, inquiries, challenges, and problems in learners' daily lives. Learners develop as readers and writers as they address important issues, solve problems, and explore themes that cross subject-area boundaries. Our small conference provides opportunities for in-depth discussions, the sharing of rough-draft thinking around critical issues, and first-hand, multimodal learning experiences.

Registration is now open. Click [here](#) to register.



ELA PROFESSIONAL LEARNING RESOURCES FROM GADDE

GPB for Teachers: Video Library

The English Language Arts division of Curriculum and Instruction has embarked upon a joint venture with Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) to create an online repository of videos to show Georgia teachers what a strategy or standard looks like in an authentic classroom setting. We have an opportunity to accomplish the following objectives: *to build a video library of master teachers demonstrating best practices for teaching the concepts in our Georgia Standards of Excellence (2015-16) in order to "show" teachers how these standards "look" in the classroom.*

We are ready to move from the *theoretical* to the *practical application* in our classrooms. The final project will include video-taped segments for professional learning. The sessions should be engaging and evince creativity, innovation, and enthusiasm and meet the following criteria: lessons will be (1) standards-based, (2) performance-based, (3) research-based, and (4) TKES aligned.

Our long-term vision includes linking the videos to the specific standards they illuminate. We want to link the short video segments to specific pages in the (to be) revised Teacher Guidance Documents that will clarify the standards (as requested by teachers during the revision process) and provide additional links with downloadable resources teachers can use! Stay tuned....

~Carolyn Waters

Updated/Revised ELA Resources

Because we understand the importance of looking ahead and being prepared for the next school year, we will begin posting revised ELA resources so that teachers can begin planning for next year. By May 30, these newly posted revisions will consist of the following:

- Teacher Guidance Documents (reflect the new naming protocol of Georgia Standards of Excellence—GSE and the revised standards)
- ELA Facts & Terms and ELA Glossary of GSE Terms (removal of archaic terms, addition of clarifying terms)
- Grade-level planning templates (reflect new naming protocol)
- Grade-level curriculum maps (reflect new naming protocol)

Below is an example of the revised Teacher Guidance document. Note the heading First Grade GSE has replaced the old First Grade CCGPS, the naming protocol for RL5 has changed, and the language of the standard has been revised. **ELAGSE1RL5**: Explain major differences between **books** **texts** that tell stories and **books** **texts** that give information. ~~drawing on a wide reading of a range of text types.~~

	First Grade GSE	
	Reading Literary (RL)	
	ELAGSE1RL5: Explain major differences between texts that tell stories and texts that give information.	

Skills/Concepts for Students:

- Explain differences and similarities between literary and informational text
- Distinguish fact from fiction in a text
- Read and listen to a variety of texts for information and pleasure

Instructional Strategies for Teachers:

- Provide explicit instruction and scaffolding as necessary for the skills and concepts students should acquire for RL5 (see above)
- Provide additional opportunities for students to master these skills and concepts through the use of literacy centers
- Provide differentiated small group instruction as needed
- Provide students with a variety of literary text
- Read a variety of texts to students explaining the differences between books that tell stories and books that give information
- Model for students how to complete graphic organizers that focus on major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information

ASCD SUMMER CONFERENCE: TEACHING EXCELLENCE 2015



Your top opportunity all year to explore the best new teaching practices is this year's ASCD Conference on Teaching Excellence. In just two and a half days, you'll get a whole career's worth of new strategies and solutions to use in any grade level or subject.

Learn what's working in classrooms and schoolwide.

You know that trying new ideas and experimenting with your craft is the heart and soul of teacher growth and professional development. But you don't have to "reinvent the wheel" every time you want to add to your skill set. Other teachers and teacher leaders have their secrets to share with you at this two-and-a-half day meeting.

Bring a team!

Learning together and collaborating with your colleagues is the best way to advance your practice. So use this opportunity to jump-start that process by bringing a team to share and explore all this important event has to offer.

For general conference information and registration: <http://www.ascd.org/conferences/conference-on-teaching-excellence/CTE-information.aspx>.



Intern with English Language Arts at the Georgia Department of Education



Who: Teachers /Instructional Coaches

When: 6-week internship—June 1–26 and July 6–17, 2015 (off week of July 4); 2–3 days a week

Where: GaDOE ELA Curriculum and Instruction Division

Duties: Revise /update additional ELA Resources; link resources; provide feedback for instructional materials

Criteria for Interns: Four or more years of experience and a desire to move into teacher-leadership role

To apply (for consideration), click [here](#) to complete the Google Doc application - limited to first 50 applicants

REDESIGN OF THE SAT

The new SAT will hit the stands in the spring of 2016.

8 Key Changes to the SAT



Essay analyzing a source

The redesigned essay will:

- ▶ More closely mirror college writing assignments
- ▶ Cultivate close reading, careful analysis, and clear writing
- ▶ Promote the practice of reading a wide variety of arguments and analyzing an author's work



Focus on math that matters most

The redesigned SAT will focus in depth on three essential areas of math:

- ▶ Problem Solving and Data Analysis (quantitative literacy)
- ▶ Heart of Algebra (mastery of linear equations)
- ▶ Passport to Advanced Math (familiarity with more complex equations)



Founding documents and great global conversation

The redesigned SAT will include one of the following:

- ▶ An excerpt from one of the U.S. founding documents
- ▶ A text from the ongoing global conversation about freedom, justice, and human dignity



No penalty for wrong answers

Students will earn:

- ▶ One point for each correct answer
- ▶ Zero points for unanswered items
- ▶ Zero points for wrong answers



Relevant words in context

Students will need to:

- ▶ Interpret meaning based on context
- ▶ Master relevant vocabulary
- ▶ Engage in close reading



Command of evidence

Students will be asked to:

- ▶ Interpret, synthesize, and use evidence found in a wide range of sources
- ▶ Support the answers they choose
- ▶ Integrate information conveyed through both reading passages and informational graphics



Problems grounded in real-world contexts

Students will engage with questions that:

- ▶ Directly relate to the work performed in college and career
- ▶ Include charts, graphs, and passages likely to be encountered in science, social studies, and other majors and careers
- ▶ Feature multistep applications to solve problems in real-life contexts



Analysis in science and in history/social studies

Students will need to:

- ▶ Solve problems in science and history/social studies
- ▶ Revise texts to be consistent with data presented in graphics

SAT

CollegeBoard
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The October 2015 PSAT will reflect the redesign of the SAT. To learn more about the redesign visit the following sites:

<https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat>

<https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/redesign>

<https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/redesign/compare-tests>

<https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/faqs>

Resource We Recommend

English Language Arts and Literacy

1754 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, SE
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

FAX: 404-651-8582

www.gadoe.org



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

How Can We Help?

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DOE ELA Home Page:
http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/ci_services.aspx?
PageReq=CIServEnglish

GeorgiaStandards.Org ELA Page:
<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Common-Core/Pages/ELA.aspx>



The Fisher and Frey Resource Center

Just how exactly do you build teachers' capacity for success as reading teachers? With dozens of literacy initiatives tugging at your attention and budget dollars each year, how do you recognize the best value for your time and money, while guaranteeing for teachers the highest-quality learning experience?

You'll know it when you see it, and you'll see it at Corwin Literacy's PD Resource Center. Here, for only \$250 per building, you'll find all the resources and expert guidance you need to direct a yearlong PD initiative focused on close and critical reading—one of the most pressing instructional needs facing K-12 teachers today.

What sets this online platform for coaches apart is that it dives deep into a single, urgent topic rather than trying to be all things to all teachers. . . . It's authored by the foremost authorities on the subject: Doug Fisher and Nancy Frey. . . . It's designed to put teacher practice at center stage, with a special emphasis on day-to-day implementation to ensure new skills are applied.

For additional information about The Fisher and Frey Resource Center, click [here](#).



Join Our ListServ and Check out our Wikis

One of the best ways to stay connected for information specific to your grade band is through our listserv (email list).

No username or password required

- ELA K-5 Join-ela-k-5@list.doe.k12.ga.us
- ELA 6-8 Join-ela-6-8@list.doe.k12.ga.us
- ELA 9-12 Join-ela-9-12@list.doe.k12.ga.us
- ELA District Support Join-ela-districtsupport@list.doe.k12.ga.us
- ELA Administrators Join-ela-admin@list.doe.k12.ga.us

Wikis:

- High School Wiki: <http://elaccgps9-12.wikispaces.com/>
- Middle Wiki: <http://georgiaelaccgps6-8.wikispaces.com/>
- Elementary Wiki: <http://georgiaelaccqpsk-5.wikispaces.com/>

