



Common Core State Standards Overview



Rationale

- Standards are from 1997
- Complicated and lacking rigor
- Need to address 21st Century skills and college/career readiness
- Not addressing those who need remedial support in higher education
- Goal: "Establish clear and consistent goals for learning that will prepare our children for college and the workforce."



Principles of the CCSS

Fewer - Clearer – Higher

- **Fewer:** not as many; little repetition from year to year; can be learned within a year
- **Clearer:** more precisely describe outcome expectations instead of being broad descriptions
- **Higher:** not harder; what is included in CCSS is actually intended for all students each year; congruence between what is stated and what is expected



Shifts in ELA/Literacy

- **Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction**
- Reading, writing, and speaking grounded in **evidence from text**, both literary and informational



Text-Dependent Questions

- Students are asked to answer questions that are dependent on reading of text for classroom practice:
 - Far longer amounts of classroom time spent on text worth reading and re-reading carefully
 - The source of information should not come solely from the teacher
 - Student answers should be based on what has been read, not opinions or experience



Text-Dependent Questions

- **Successful teachers...**

- ask students questions that require them to refer to the text in order to respond both orally and in writing
- teach students strategies for citing evidence from text
- ask students questions that require them to cite textual evidence, infer, and respond to questions that are at higher levels of thinking
- allow for increased processing time for students to respond to text-dependent questions

Non-Examples & Examples

Not Text-Dependent	Text-Dependent
In “Casey at the Bat,” Casey strikes out. Describe a time when you failed at something.	What makes Casey’s experiences at bat humorous?
In “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” Dr. King discusses nonviolent protest. Discuss, in writing, a time when you wanted to fight against something that you felt was unfair.	What can you infer from King’s letter about the letter that he received?
In “The Gettysburg Address” Lincoln says the nation is dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Why is equality an important value to promote?	“The Gettysburg Address” mentions the year 1776. According to Lincoln’s speech, why is this year significant to the events described in the speech?

Example?

James Watson used time away from his laboratory and a set of models similar to preschool toys to help him solve the puzzle of DNA. In an essay discuss how play and relaxation help promote clear thinking and problem solving.

Writing About Biology

The Double Helix

The following excerpts are from *The Double Helix*, James Watson's account of the discovery of the structure of DNA.

The α -helix had not been found by staring at X-ray pictures; the essential trick, instead, was to ask which atoms like to sit next to each other. In place of pencil and paper, the main working tools were a set of molecular models superficially resembling the toys of preschool children. . . .

I went ahead spending most evenings at the films, vaguely dreaming that at any moment the answer would suddenly hit me. . . .

Not until the middle of the next week, however, did a nontrivial idea emerge. It came while I was drawing the fused rings of adenine on paper. Suddenly I realized the potentially profound implications of a DNA structure in which the adenine residue formed hydrogen bonds similar to those found in crystals of pure adenine. If DNA was like this, each adenine residue would form two hydrogen bonds to an adenine residue related to it by a 180-degree rotation. Most important, two symmetrical hydrogen bonds could also hold together pairs of guanine, cytosine, or thymine.

I thus started wondering whether each DNA molecule consisted of two chains with identical base sequences held together by hydrogen bonds between pairs of identical bases. There was the complication, however, that such a structure could not have a regular backbone since the purines (adenine and guanine) and the pyrimidines (thymine and cytosine) have different shapes. . . .

Despite the messy backbone, my pulse began to race. . . . The existence of two intertwined chains with identical base sequences

could not be a chance matter. Instead it would strongly suggest that one chain in each molecule had at some earlier stage served as the template for the synthesis of the other chain.

... [One day elapsed during which American crystallographer Jerry Donahue convinced Watson that his model was incorrect.]

When I got to our still empty office the following morning, I quickly cleared away the papers from my desk top so that I would have a large, flat surface on which to form pairs of bases held together by hydrogen bonds. Though I initially went back to my like-with-like prejudices, I saw all too well that they led nowhere. When Jerry came in I looked up, saw that it was not friends, and began shifting the bases in and out of various other pairing possibilities.

Suddenly I became aware that an adenine-thymine pair held together by two hydrogen bonds was identical in shape to a guanine-cytosine pair held together by at least two hydrogen bonds. All the hydrogen bonds seemed to form naturally; no fudging was required to make the two types of base pairs identical in shape. Quickly I called Jerry over to ask him whether this time he had any objection to my new base pairs. When he said no, my morale skyrocketed. . . .

Upon his arrival Franck did not get more than halfway through the door before I let loose that the answer to everything was in our hands. . . .


Write
• James Watson used time away from his laboratory and a set of models similar to preschool toys to help him solve the puzzle of DNA. In an essay discuss how play and relaxation help promote clear thinking and problem solving.





Shifts in ELA/Literacy

- **Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction**
- Reading, writing, and speaking grounded in **evidence from text**, both literary and informational
- Regular practice with **complex text** and its **academic language**.



“Asking a teacher to become a reading teacher is distinctly different from asking a teacher to help students master texts within the teacher’s own field. In fact, subject-area teachers are best qualified to help their students master texts in each course. Subject-area teachers should not be expected to teach basic reading skills, but they can help students develop critical strategies and skills for reading texts in each subject.”

“Southern Regional Educational Board”



Power of the Shifts

- **Know** them – both the *what* and the *why*
- **Internalize** them
- **Apply** them to your decisions about
 - Time
 - Energy
 - Resources
 - Assessments
 - Conversations with parents, students, colleagues
- Continue to **engage** with them:
- www.achievethecore.org and @achievethecore on
- Common Core App by MasteryConnect for Apple & Android

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Version: 2.1.3

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Compatibility: Requires iOS 5.0 or later. Compatible with

Description

View the Common Core State Standards in one convenient FREE app! A great reference for students, parents, and teachers to easily read and understand the core standards. Quickly find standards by subject, grade, and subject category (domain/cluster). This app includes Math standards K-12 and Language Arts standards K-12. Math

[MasteryConnect Web Site](#) [Common Core Standards Support](#)

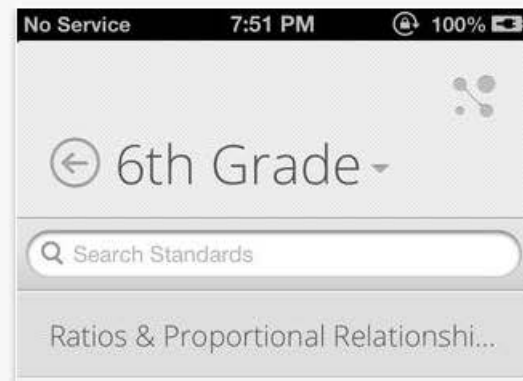
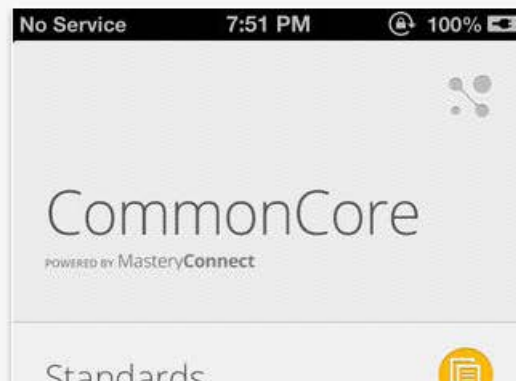
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What's New in Version 2.1.3

Bug Fixes

Screenshots

iPhone | iPad





Examples

- Current Events Show
- Reading non-fiction text
- Predict – Summarize - Infer