

ELA REPORTER



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YOUR PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERACY

Partners in Progress: A Look Inside the ELA Summer Institutes

If you are a subscriber to the ELA Reporter, then you have been hearing for many weeks about the professional learning and networking opportunities planned for the summer. Inspired by the exciting and fruitful collaborations we saw with content teachers and Library Media Specialists in the field



throughout the academic year, we decided on a theme of partnerships. Working with facilitators at university conference centers around the state, we were able to procure spacious and modern facilities for each event. The series began on the Georgia Southern University Campus in Statesboro on July 10, traveled to Kennesaw State University July 12, Middle Georgia State College in Macon on July 16, and ended with our final event at the University of Georgia campus in Tifton on July 17.

All of the materials delivered at each event have been archived for easy access on a newly-created wikispace at <http://ela-literacy-institute.wikispaces.com/> On this page you will find every presentation in its entirety along with all instructional materials and documents provided within the workshops. We are hoping to add video interviews with the teachers of presentation highlights in the near future. For a tour of the Wiki, see page 4.

We asked that the presentations feature hands-on, usable strategies and materials that teachers could take away and implement in their own classrooms. Inside this month's newsletter you will meet our presenters and get a glimpse of the wonderful workshops they delivered to nearly 1200 educators between July 10 and July 17.



GaDOE Announces Withdrawal from PARCC Assessment Consortium

State School Superintendent Dr. John Barge and Gov. Nathan Deal announced that Georgia is withdrawing from the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test development consortium.

Instead, the Georgia Department of Education will work with educators across the state to create standardized tests aligned to Georgia's current academic standards in mathematics and English language arts for elementary, middle and high school students. Additionally, Georgia will seek opportunities

Creating the tests in Georgia will ensure that the state maintains control over its academic standards and student testing, whereas a common assessment would have prevented GaDOE from being able to adjust and rewrite Georgia's standards when educators indicate revisions are needed to best serve students. from GaDOE Press Release July 22, 2013

We on the DOE ELA team will keep you apprised of news on this issue as it develops. Watch future newsletters for information. As Dr. Barge stated, rigor expectations will not change.

Georgia
Department
of Education



Dr. John D. Barge,
State School
Superintendent

*"Making Education
Work for All Georgians"*

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Keynote Speaker: Cynde Snider, Georgia DOE

Cynde Snider, PhD, of the DOE Division for Special Education Services & Supports, kicked off each event with her inspiring take on the realities and challenges that real-world teachers face each day. Through a series of personal anecdotes liberally sprinkled with cited research (especially from her mentor, John Hattie), and the effect-size of various interventions and strategies, Cynde helped our educators to feel equipped and inspired to begin another academic year.

What teachers are saying: "Really enhanced my understanding of close reading" "Dr. Snider was so motivating. I want the 'pocket Snider'!" "Energetic and inspiring."

Partners In Progress: Workshops I, II, and II Elementary Focus

Breaking Down the Barriers: Differentiation with CCGPS (all sites)

George Lamberth, Special Education Teacher, Vic-Marie White, ESOL Teacher, Hunt Elementary School
Proven methods to implement the CCGPS with fidelity for second language learners and special education students.



"Great job, good info. I plan to use this next year."
"Super! Take and make tools ready to be used the first day of the year."
"These presenters were dynamic together and reminded me to be positive and use every available resource to help my students."

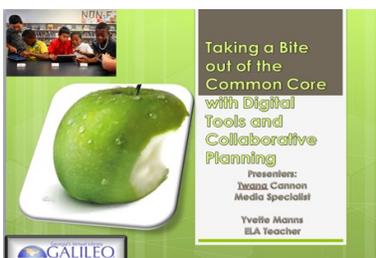
Digital Delights: Apps and More that Are Good for the Core (July 10, July 16)

Melissa Webb, Literacy Coach, Tomeka Barron, Literacy Coach, Savannah-Chatham County School System
A series of strategies to incorporate the big shifts in Common Core into the elementary classroom, specifically focusing on the effective integration of technology.



"Very engaging; they really walked us through the processes."
"Not just a sit and get. This is professional development at its best."
"Melissa and Tomeka did an excellent job of modeling cross-curricular learning and planning."

Taking a Bite Out of the Common Core with Digital Tools and Collaborative Planning, (July 12), Twana Cannon, Library Media Specialist, Yvette Manns, ELA Teacher, Margaret Fain Elementary School



Using GALILEO Kids and partnering with the local public library to incorporate ECampus resources, students use iPads and interactive websites aligned to the standards to conduct research and complete performance tasks.

"Awesome apps!"
"I'm going to be able to use this information—very practical."
"Real world solutions. Refreshing!"

Nothing Like the Real Thing: Primary Sources for Interdisciplinary Instruction, (July 17)

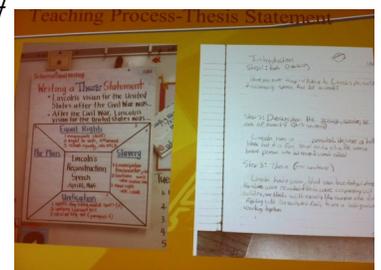
Trish Vlastnik, Library Media Specialist, Nia Pole, ESOL Teacher, E. J. Swint Elementary School
Resources for primary source materials to supplement instruction across the content areas, focusing on examples from units on the Civil War, The Dust Bowl, Civil Rights, and more



"These were truly excellent resources for media specialists!"
"Great energy! These ladies did a great job rekindling the fire to reach our struggling students."
"Amazingly informative."

Critical Reading and Writing Around Complex Texts, (all sites)

Cassie Parsons, Literacy Coach, Tiffany Abbott Fuller, Literacy Teacher, Brant Amerman, Social Studies Teacher, West End Elementary School
Units of study including elements of appropriate text choice and complementary primary source documents across the content areas. Effective strategies to guide students through the complex texts at each step of the reading process.



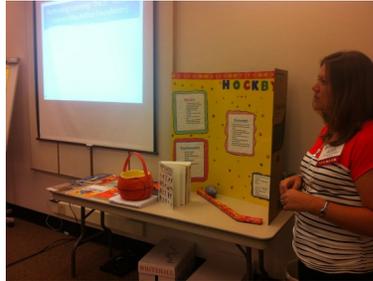
"Great sampling of objectives. Very clear."
"Interesting and unique approach to text complexity."
"It was great to see actual teachers being successful this. It can be done!"



Partners in Progress: Workshops I, II, and III Secondary Focus

This Ain't Your Mama's Dodge Ball: A New Twist on Differentiation in a Research Unit (all sites), Lindsay Meekhof, ELA Teacher, Susan K.S. Grigsby, Library Media Specialist, Elkins Point Middle School

Enhance your ability to motivate and reach students at every level and in every stage of the research process and performance task with effective differentiation and collaboration. Foster meaningful collaboration strategies between the ELA teacher and Media Specialist



"Hands on, and a great activity."
"These were very cool strategies—a lot of fun!"
"Wow! I loved the collaboration with the media specialist here."

Everything's An Argument! Collaborative Planning for Research, Source Evaluation, Close Reading, and Argumentative Writing (all sites)

Tammy Herrington, Library Media Specialist, Jerry Rigdon, ELA Teacher Heritage High School
Strategies for effective collaboration and for meaningful implementation of the CCGPS, including close reading of complex text and effective research, synthesis, and evaluation techniques for secondary students. Highlighted activities include the Identity Box and Learning Autobiography, culminating in a research-driven and text-based performance task.



"These were great ideas; I liked the many examples and the graphic organizers. I will be using these in my class."
"Excellent presentation on an important topic."

101 Tips, Tools, and Techniques for Using Technology in the ELA Classroom (all sites) Coni Grebel ELA Teacher, Kim Goodson, ELA Teacher, Lee County High School

Use your cell phones, laptops, or iPads to experience some of the technology-based secrets to be shared. Guidelines, strategies, and student work samples for each featured tip including Pearltree, Prezi, Google-Docs, TurnItIn, Padlet, and more.

"This workshop was filled with good ideas from start to finish." "Practical and enthusiastic."
"Excellent! These ladies were flexible, knowledgeable, and very well prepared."



Lunch and Learn with Karen Minton, GALILEO, University System of Georgia (all sites)

Karen Minton is a librarian on the GALILEO support staff, working with schools, public libraries, and academic institutions in Georgia. She has also worked in various education and media fields in Georgia and Alaska. She is an expert on Georgia's digital resources, text complexity, Lexile issues, and the incorporation of informational text. We were privileged to have her at each of the four institutes.

"Great presenter—funny and interesting."
"A well-organized presentation with a wonderful and informative speaker."
"I am so thankful when I walk away with something new. Glad I came!"



Inspiration for a New School Year

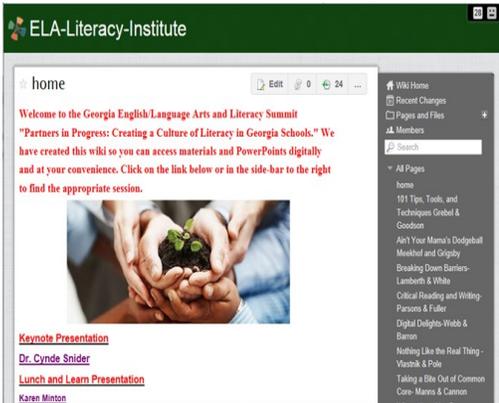


I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist. Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit..
- John Steinbeck

In a completely rational society, the best of us would be teachers and the rest of us would have to settle for something else.
- Lee Iacocca

Most of us end up with no more than 5 or 6 people who remember us. Teachers have thousands of people who remember them for the rest of their lives.
- Andy Rooney

Resources We Recommend: ELA Summer Institute Wiki



If the brief introductions to our summer institute workshops has whetted your appetite for more, then we invite you to peruse the wikispace we have created to share the resources from the workshops. Simply visit the URL above; no password or membership necessary. Each of the links on the page will direct you to a resource cache for a given presentation. Here you will find the PowerPoints, Prezis, handouts, graphic organizers, student work samples, and more. Please use, enjoy, and share!
<http://ela-literacy-institute.wikispaces.com/>

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Getting Started: Resources for the 2013-2014 Academic Year

One of the joys of a career in education is the opportunity most of us have each year to rest, reflect, and re-charge for a few weeks each summer. Not many other careers offer its practitioners so many chances to learn, grow, and begin again with new eyes. Even the most experienced teachers are not immune to that spark of excitement and enthusiasm that accompanies the new roster of names, the blank white board, the freshly waxed floor.

As we embark on another adventure together, we would like to remind you of some of the resources available to you to get your year off to a strong start. As always, remember that only the College and Career Georgia Performance Standards themselves are important for educators to implement with fidelity. Unit plans, individual lessons or activities, and text choices should always be decided upon locally.



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>

Click on your grade level to find curriculum maps, extensive Teacher Guidance Documents (these include sample integrated lessons and activities for every standard), blank planning templates, and This rubric can help to determine appropriate text complexity.

Click here to visit your grade level Wiki. The Wikis contain sample unit plans for a full year, professional learning, links to other sites, and more.

Check out back issues of the ELA newsletter for a wealth of knowledge about initiatives, professional learning, and resources from prior months.

These webcasts feature real Georgia educators talking about successful strategies they employed in their own classrooms, and feature hands-on activities and student work.

Join our Listserv to receive updates on all ELA news and resources from the DOE.

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