Locating and Developing Instructional Materials for 2013-2014

For several weeks we have been keeping our readers apprised of the development of additional resources to assist Georgia educators in their continued implementation of next-generation standards and assessments. Most recently we have posted on each grade level Wiki a new and/or revised and updated unit of instruction (Unit One) and an additional alternative unit from Achieve the Core. While we will continue to post additional resources, it is important to understand that these offerings are not presented as a set to be used together in any prescribed order.

For the first year of CCGPS implementation, we provided a full year of instructional units that were designed to be used as a set if desired. Going forward, we will be augmenting this series with alternative units that represent widely varying styles, text choices, and strategies, in order that you might construct a set of material that suits your unique needs. So while you can envision last year’s offerings as a four course meal that proceeded from entrée to dessert, this year’s offerings are a wide-open grocery store from which you can choose individual ingredients to make your own favorite meal. Up to 3 additional complete units will be added to each grade level on the Wiki pages in October and November. We hope you will find these materials useful and that you will be able to supplement your growing repertoire of next-generation strategies and lessons with the items we will be offering. To view the material visit our Wikis:

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

In addition to the units we will be posting that have been created for you by Georgia educators, we also recommend that you review the newly posted lessons and resources at Achieve the Core. Here you will find a library of almost 300 free, teacher-developed Common Core-aligned lessons for grades 3-10. The site includes lessons for popular stories, non-fiction texts, basal readers, and anthologies:

http://www.achievethecore.org/dashboard/300/search/1/1/0/1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10/11/12/page/788/ela-literacy-lesson-bank

For teachers who wish to continue to or begin to develop their own original instructional materials, remember that we have resources available to assist in that process. On our ELA landing page at GeorgiaStandards.Org (https://www.georgiastandards.org/Common-Core/Pages/ELA.aspx) you will find a Text Complexity Rubric to assist in making appropriate text choices, a Curriculum Map to aid in making pacing choices, a Teacher Guidance Document to provide sample lessons for each standard, and a blank Planning Template to walk you through the construction process step-by-step.

On page 2 of this month’s ELA Reporter you will find information on the EQuIP Rubric, a great new tool for evaluating resources for rigor, relevance, and standards-alignment in the 21st-century classroom. As you create materials, this tool will help you gain confidence and stay on track with the latest best practices. Happy planning!
The EQuIP Rubric: Educators Evaluating Quality Instructional Products

A new and welcome addition to the creative process is the Educators Evaluating Quality Instructional Products (EQuIP) Rubric, designed to help designers and reviewers readily identify key components of quality Common Core materials. Formerly known as the Tri-State Rubric, this helpful tool can be found at the following URL:


The purpose of the Rubric is to provide clear, descriptive criteria for CCSS lessons/units, to provide meaningful, constructive feedback to developers of lessons/units, to help Identify lessons/units that can serve as models, and to guide collegial review and jurying processes.

With the EQuIP Rubric, educators can evaluate the following items:

- Lessons that include instructional activities and assessments aligned to the CCSS that may extend over a few class periods or days.
- Units that include integrated and focused lessons aligned to the CCSS that extend over a longer period of time.

Note that the Rubric is not designed to evaluate a single task. When you visit the site, you will see two versions of the rubric: a single page version and a two-page version. The one page format contains the entire rubric including dimensions, criteria and ratings. The two page format is used during the review process and includes a column following each dimension for recording observations, comments and suggestions for improvement. Visit the site for more info!

**Criteria that define the rubric are organized to describe quality in four dimensions.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Alignment to the rigor of the CCSS</td>
<td>The lesson/unit adheres to the rigor and complexity of the CCSS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Key areas of focus in the CCSS</td>
<td>The lesson/unit focuses on the key areas of focus in the CCSS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Instructional supports</td>
<td>The lesson/unit provides instructional supports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Assessment</td>
<td>The lesson/unit provides assessment opportunities.</td>
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</table>

**The most critical criteria are considered to be “must have’s” for a quality CCSS lesson/unit.**

Resources We Recommend

In *Write Like This*, Kelly emphasizes real-world writing purposes, the kind of writing he wants his students to be doing twenty years from now. Each chapter focuses on a specific discourse: express and reflect, inform and explain, evaluate and judge, inquire and explore, analyze and interpret, and take a stand/propose a solution. In teaching these lessons, Kelly provides mentor texts (professional samples as well as models he has written in front of his students), student writing samples, and numerous assignments and strategies proven to elevate student writing.

By helping teachers bring effective modeling practices into their classrooms, *Write Like This* enables students to become better adolescent writers. More important, the practices found in this book will help our students develop the writing skills they will need to become adult writers in the real world. Check it out!
As we continue our year-long focus on writing, this month we would like to invite you to review and discuss some of the most popular writing rubrics being used in today’s classrooms. In last month’s issue of the ELA Reporter, we featured the CCGPS Resource Connections Guide for the Georgia standardized writing assessments. As illustrated in the sample below, the resource guide addresses the rubric dimensions historically used in Georgia’s assessments, and connects modern CCGPS lessons and strategies to those dimensions. As with many of the fundamental skills in English Language Arts, the elements that make up an effective essay are universal and unchanging: strong controlling ideas, organization, style, sentence fluency, usage, and mechanics. These are elements characteristic of all effective writing rubrics. However, some of the more modern rubrics that take into account factors relevant to text-dependent questions and evidence-based argument may prove to be more nuanced and useful as you move forward with the implementation of the more rigorous CCGPS writing standards. Look for more discussion about these rubrics in future months in the Reporter as we continue our exploration of the teaching of writing in the 21st century. Until then, we invite you to review some of the following offerings. This week we are featuring rubrics developed by the Partnership for Assessment of College and Career Readiness.

**Professional Learning Opportunities**

**On Writing...**

**GRADES 2/3:** [http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/Grade%203%20ELA%20Expanded%20Rubric%20FOR%20ANALYTIC%20AND%20NARRATIVE%20WRITING%200.pdf](http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/Grade%203%20ELA%20Expanded%20Rubric%20FOR%20ANALYTIC%20AND%20NARRATIVE%20WRITING%200.pdf)

**GRADES 4/5:** [http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/Grade%204-5%20ELA%20Expanded%20Rubric%20FOR%20ANALYTIC%20AND%20NARRATIVE%20WRITING%200.pdf](http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/Grade%204-5%20ELA%20Expanded%20Rubric%20FOR%20ANALYTIC%20AND%20NARRATIVE%20WRITING%200.pdf)

The Spelling Bee Committee of the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE) is busy planning a fantastic spelling bee program for the 2013-2014 school-year. To help you make your Bee as successful as possible, the committee strongly suggests you take the time to thoroughly read the online Procedures, Rules, and Regulations manual.

GAE is proud to offer Georgia students an opportunity to exhibit their proficiency in the art of spelling. If a participant is successful at the school system level, then he/she will have the opportunity to advance to the district competition. The district winners and runners-up compete in the state spelling bee with the state winner advancing to the national spelling bee. Also, because of Scripps new emphasis on vocabulary, it is recommended that our students also concentrate on vocabulary in their studies should they win and go on to the nationals.

This school year, 2013-2014, Scripps National Spelling Bee enrollment period is August 15 - October 15, 2013. Students competing in the 2014 Scripps National Spelling Bee must be enrolled in schools/associations that have paid the Scripps $120 enrollment fee. Please remember to enroll online with Scripps at www.spellingbee.com by the October 15th deadline. No schools will be added afterwards.

To ensure a successful spelling bee, it is recommended that you utilize the products and resources described in the aforementioned online manual on pages 32 & 34 and to follow the GAE Official Rules and Regulations for spelling bees that are on pages 9 -12. According to Scripps, their spelling bee rules apply only to the competition at the national level; therefore, it is important to read and understand Georgia’s rules, which will apply up and through the state championship.

The GAE Spelling Bee Committee and I hope you have a great year planning and implementing your bee!

HAPPY S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G!!!!

Calvine Rollins
Georgia Association of Educators

For more information and to register, visit http://www.mynewsletterbuilder.com/email/newsletter/1411784211.