

2017

# Supporting Content Learning in the Secondary Classroom through Literacy: Resources for Science, Mathematics, History/Social Science, ELD, and ELA



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**Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee (CISC)**

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**CALIFORNIA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS**  
Educational Services Association

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# Foreword and Acknowledgements

## Foreword

*This document, developed via a collaborative effort of CISC ELA/ELD Subcommittee, California State University Chancellor's Office, and California Department of Education staff members, provides a collection of resources to support content learning through literacy for secondary classes.*

## Acknowledgements

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*NOTE: This document is available in digital format via the hyperlink provided below.*

[Supporting Content Learning in the Secondary Classroom through Literacy: Resources for Science, Mathematics, History/Social Science, ELD, and ELA](#)

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## Supporting Content Learning in the Secondary Classroom through Literacy: Resources for Science, Mathematics, History/Social Science, ELD, and ELA





This document fosters the idea that literacy is essential to content learning in every classroom. This abbreviated list of high-utility resources was compiled to support 6th-12th grade teachers in all content areas to develop their students' literacy skills. This resource is intended to be a manageable and user-friendly electronic document. As such, it is organized into four categories: websites, video-based resources, books, and additional resources. Each resource is further categorized by content area via the icons. For full accessibility to content, many sites require the user to log in. All sites included provide content free of charge; however, there might be additional paid content on the sites as well.


To suggest additional resources or provide corrections, please contact Lisa Gilbert at [liligilbert@kern.org](mailto:liligilbert@kern.org).

Legend							
							
English Language Arts	English Language Development	History Social Science	Math	Science	Professional Learning	Research Articles	Lessons or Units

### WEBSITES

**WordGen** <http://wordgen.serpmedia.org/index.html>




Word Generation provides well-structured lessons and units (science, social studies, ELA, interdisciplinary) that place heavy emphasis on academic language, argumentation, analytic reasoning, reading to find evidence, oral discussion, and writing. The site includes 72 interdisciplinary units, 18 science units, and 18 social studies units. There are also video recordings of many Word Generation lessons. Registration (free) is needed to access all the curriculum.

- A Favorite Feature:** [Word Generation Weekly](#) is a supplementary curricular resource that offers a series of discussable dilemmas (of high interest to young adolescents) designed to promote students' academic language and argumentation skills. Fifteen- to twenty-minute activities focused on the week's dilemma take place in ELA, science, social studies, and math classes, and five target academic vocabulary words are incorporated into each of those activities. Students read, discuss, debate, and write about each weekly topic, using the newly taught vocabulary words.

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### Understanding Proficiency: Learning from Student Work on Performance Tasks

<http://understandingproficiency.wested.org/ela/>



A partnership between WestEd and Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning & Equity, Understanding Proficiency provides resources that guide educators in analyzing student work on performance tasks in order to develop a deeper understanding of the California State Standards for ELA/Literacy. What you'll find: examples of student responses to Smarter Balanced ELA/Literacy performance tasks - administered, scored and annotated by teachers - for all score levels including samples from English learners and for all tested [grades](#). Teacher reflections and [videos](#) featuring educators engaged in scoring and analyzing student work and professional development [activities](#) to support educators in leveraging these resources for their own learning.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Teachers will find essays at each score point with rationales for each element of the rubric. In addition, each grade level includes a case study of two students.

### Stanford University's - Reading Like a Historian <http://sheg.stanford.edu/?q=node/45>



Seventy-five free secondary lessons in U.S. history embedding close reading practices. This free curriculum engages students in historical inquiry. Each lesson revolves around a central historical question and features downloadable sets of primary documents modified for groups of students with diverse reading skills and abilities. It shows students how to investigate historical questions employing reading strategies such as sourcing, contextualizing, corroborating, and close reading. Instead of memorizing historical facts, students evaluate the trustworthiness of multiple perspectives on issues and make historical claims backed by documentary evidence.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Introduction to [historical thinking lesson plans](#). Lunchroom Fight is an engaging and effective lesson to introduce students to the elements of historical thinking through close reading.

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### Southern Regional Education Board [www.sreb.org](http://www.sreb.org)



SREB Readiness Courses help underprepared students succeed in high school and postsecondary studies. SREB developed the courses, with input from state leaders and master teachers, to improve student skills and understanding in literacy and mathematics.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Ready for College: Literacy Ready <http://www.sreb.org/literacy-ready> and Ready for High School Literacy <http://www.sreb.org/ready-high-school>.

### Smarter Balanced Digital Library <https://www.smarterbalancedlibrary.org/>



The Smarter Balanced Digital Library is an online collection of professional development and instructional learning resources aligned with the Common Core State Standards that support K–12 teachers in their use of formative assessment processes to adjust teaching to improve student learning. Full access to the site is available to all who have a California public school district e-mail address.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Lessons and units vetted by the State Network Educators to align with the CCSS. A filter tool can help select specific grades and keywords. A sample lesson is [Inquiring Minds Want to Know: Using Question Formulation Technique to Engage Learners](#). Also check out a curated Digital Library [resource collection](#).

### SCOPE Performance Assessment Resource Bank <https://www.performanceassessmentresourcebank.org>



The Performance Assessment Project includes high-quality, expert-reviewed performance tasks and the resources teachers, leaders, and policymakers need to support the use of performance assessment for meaningful learning. Additionally, the site includes learning progressions, research, and other assessment resources. The resources on the site have been vetted by experts trained by UL-SCALE at Stanford University.

- **A Favorite Feature:** A [bank of K-12 performance tasks](#) in math, English/language arts, science, and history/social studies. Performance tasks are searchable via filters for type of task, subject, course, and grade level.

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### Reading to Learn in Science <http://serpmedia.org/rtl/index.html>



Improving students' learning of science content by improving their ability to interpret science texts. Includes specific tips and tools to help enhance students' disciplinary literacy.

- **A Favorite Feature:** [Downloadable strategies](#) to support student literacy.

### PBS Learning <http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/>



Videos and lesson plans around current events and state standards for multiple subject areas. Provides access to thousands of standards-aligned digital resources and professional development opportunities.

- **A Favorite Feature:** [SciGirls](#) is a unit that has the bold goal of changing how millions of girls think about science, technology, engineering, and math – or STEM.

### Odell Education <http://odelleducation.com>



Odell Education develops an array of educational materials including instructional units, evaluation rubrics, training materials, and assessments. They specialize in developing materials aligned with the CCSS for ELA/Literacy. The materials have a clear focus on teaching students the foundational linguistic, critical thinking, and inquiry skills. Complete units are available for grades 6-12.

- **A Favorite Feature:** [Researching to Deepen Understanding](#) Units. The unit has been evaluated through Achieve's EQUIP Quality Review process and has been rated Exemplar.

### Newspapers in Education <http://www.nieonline.com/>



Online classroom resources and other materials provide ideas for teachers to use the newspaper as a “living textbook” in their classrooms.

- **A Favorite Feature:** [Classroom Resources](#): sample lessons based on current news topics.



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### National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) <https://www.nsta.org/>



NSTA is the largest organization in the world committed to promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all. The site includes the NGSS, curriculum and teaching resources, and connectors to the CCSS for [ELA](#) and [Math](#).

- A Favorite Feature:** [Classroom Resources](#): sample lessons and mini units vetted by NSTA for NGSS alignment utilizing the EQUIP Rubrics to further align with the CCSS. A filter tool allows you to select specific grades and science strands to review. The actual lessons are available by selecting the “View this Resource” box. NSTA membership is required for free material.

### Literacy Design Collaborative <https://ldc.org/>



The Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) addresses literacy in middle and high school content areas. It is designed to make literacy instruction the foundation of the core subjects. The LDC framework is used by teachers as common templates to create LDC tasks, modules, and courses designed to teach students to meet CCSS literacy standards while engaging in demanding content. There are several sample modules in ELA, H/SS, and science and technical subjects which can be used as is, for strategic lesson study, or as a model for lesson design.

- A Favorite Feature:** LDC Curriculum [Library](#) has a host of searchable units available. You need to set up a login, but the materials are free.

### Library of Congress <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/>



The Library of Congress offers classroom materials and professional development to help teachers use primary sources from the Library's vast digital collections in their teaching. The Library of Congress houses lesson plans and more that meet Common Core standards, state content standards, and the standards of national organizations.

- A Favorite Feature:** The photo archive collections [Civil War](#) and the [primary documentation analysis tool](#) can be used together to facilitate highly engaging lessons. Their [professional development resources](#) provide both self-directed modules and ready-to-present modules.

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### LearnZillion <https://learnzillion.com/>



LearnZillion includes over 2,000 expertly-crafted math and ELA lessons for grades K-12 that can be easily distributed to students. The site offers ways to help improve instruction, track student performance, and better respond to the specific needs of students.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Teachers are able to create a class and assign work from the site.
  - [Grade 7 Example](#) (Poetry)
  - [Grade 8 Example](#) (Close Reading Modules for Informational Text)
  - [Grade 9-10 Example](#) (Reading and Writing Video Lessons)
  - [High School Algebra](#) (Linear Equations)

### The Learning Network: Teaching and Learning with the New York Times

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com>



The Learning Network provides daily resources for teaching and learning with *The New York Times*, including lesson plans, questions for writing and discussion, quizzes, monthly contests and more. The Learning Network and everything they publish, as well as all the content from The Times that they link to, is free and accessible without a digital subscription.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Sign up to receive a weekly newsletter.

### Expository Reading and Writing Project (ERWC) <https://writing.csusuccess.org>



ERWC is a resource for standards-aligned ELA/ELD lessons, as well as a professional learning community. Instructional materials for grades 6-12 are available to any teachers who attend professional learning. See the [Workshop Schedule](#) to find a workshop near you. Schools may adopt the 12th grade course as a method of clearing students' Conditional EAP status. Professional learning workshops and materials for high school are supported by state funds; workshops for grades 6-8 are at cost.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Access a [list of county leads](#) who can be contacted for more information.

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### Engage New York <https://www.engageny.org/>



Professional learning tools and resources to support educators. Free access to Eureka Math and Engage New York K-12 ELA materials.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Common Core information related to literacy:
  - [Complete Units and Courses of Study](#)
  - [Literacy Shifts 6-12](#)
  - [Common Core ELA](#)

### Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) Curriculum

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/Curriculum/Default.htm>



Field-tested in Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms from San Diego to California's North Coast, the 85 EEI Curriculum units cover selected academic content standards in both Science and History-Social Science. Each EEI Curriculum unit is designed to teach one or more standards to mastery. A free, interactive, online Professional Learning course is offered by National Geographic Education and Annenberg Learning.

- **A Favorite Feature:** EEI [curriculum connected to the CCSS and the NGSS](#)

### CTE Online <https://www.cteonline.org/>



Curriculum models, shared communities of practice, and professional development tools that emphasize the role rigorous academic skills play in supporting students' pursuit of industry and career-related coursework.

- **A Favorite Feature:** The interdisciplinary units align to the California State Standards for ELA/Literacy for diverse content areas. For example, ["The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks: Organization Activities."](#)

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**Annenberg Learner** <https://www.learner.org/resources/browse.html>



Videos and instructional materials for classroom use and professional development. Their mission is to advance excellent teaching through the development and distribution of multimedia resources for teaching and learning. One division of the [Annenberg Foundation](#) funds a wide range of programs in education and other areas.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Annenberg Learner funds and distributes more than 100 multimedia courses and workshops to help teachers keep current on the content they teach.

**Achieve the Core** <http://achievethecore.org/>



Free, ready-to-use classroom resources designed to help educators understand and implement the Common Core and other college and career ready standards.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Professional development resources for secondary educators, including [Literacy Shifts](#) and [ELA/Literacy Lessons](#).

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## VIDEO-BASED RESOURCES

### Teaching the Core [www.teachingthecore.org/](http://www.teachingthecore.org/)



These Teaching the Core lessons have been carefully reviewed and annotated by experienced educators and content experts using Student Achievement Partners' Instructional Practice Guide, a tool that helps educators plan and review their Common Core-aligned lessons to make the necessary shifts in instruction.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Videotaped lessons include descriptive annotations that identify lesson elements and teacher and student actions and behaviors that support Common Core learning.

### The Teaching Channel <https://www.teachingchannel.org/>



The Teaching Channel is an online community where teachers can search to watch video, download lesson plans and resources, share questions and answers with one another, and learn diverse techniques to help every student grow. It includes opportunities for lesson study.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Search allows teachers to sort video by content, grade, or topic. For example, high school exemplary video of [Reading Like a Historian, Sourcing](#).

### My Digital Chalkboard <https://www.mydigitalchalkboard.org/>



An online community of California public school and district educators. California educators collaborate through group participation and discussions, upload educational classroom and administrative resources that help other educators access what works best in California schools and districts. Over 389,000 educational resources have been contributed to the resource libraries.

- **A Favorite Feature:** With resources being added constantly, the ability to subscribe to a particular group is essential. Below are powerful examples of groups to join:
  - [Secondary Literacy Partnership](#)
  - [California CCSS Professional Learning Modules](#)

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## BOOKS

### *They Say, I Say* – Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein



*They Say, I Say* identifies the key rhetorical moves in academic writing, showing students how to frame their arguments in the larger context of what others have said and provides templates to help them make those moves. And, because these moves are central across all disciplines, the book includes chapters on writing in the sciences, writing in the social sciences, and—new to this edition—writing about literature.

- **A Favorite Feature:** This book has been used successfully for many years in the Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) to teach/learn college level reading and writing.

### *Teaching Arguments-Rhetorical Comprehension, Critique, and Response* – Jennifer Fletcher



Jennifer Fletcher provides teachers with engaging classroom activities, writing prompts, graphic organizers, and student samples to help students at all levels read, write, listen, speak, and think rhetorically.

- **A Favorite Feature:** The section entitled “Listening with an Open Mind.”

### *Reading Rhetorically, 4th Edition* – John C. Bean, Virginia A. Chappell, Alice M. Gillam



Offering concise yet thorough treatment of academic reading and writing in college, *Reading Rhetorically* shows students how to analyze texts by recognizing rhetorical strategies and genre conventions and how to incorporate other writers’ texts into their own research-based papers.

- **A Favorite Feature:** This resource has been used successfully in the Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) for many years to teach college level reading.

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### *Influence of Teachers* – John Merrow



How can schools and teachers change to keep up with the current educational landscape, a world in which young people must learn how to ask the right questions, not merely parrot back the “right” answers? In this book, Merrow draws on his experience as a reporter for PBS and NPR to examine this question and others, and offer possibilities and solutions for a new education system. Told through a mix of storytelling and compelling case studies, Merrow paints a vibrant and inspiring picture of why and how we must transform—not reform—our schools.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Describes the relationship between teachers in the classroom and the administrators who lead them.

### *Developing Readers in the Academic Disciplines* – Doug Buehl



*Developing Readers in the Academic Disciplines* addresses the need for explicit disciplinary literacy instruction with examples and supports for many disciplines including Mathematics; Social Science, Science, Literature, Technical Disciplines; World Languages; Arts and Humanities; and Health and Fitness. The book helps teachers take an apprentice approach and mentor students as readers, writers, and thinkers.

- **A Favorite Feature:** The book is helpful to an instructional leader who supports a variety of content areas. Chapter 1, “Mentoring Students in Disciplinary Literacy”, would be useful for discussion in a group interested in exploring disciplinary literacy.

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***Common Core Standards in Diverse Classrooms: Essential Practices for Developing Academic Language and Disciplinary Literacy*** – Jeff Zwiers, Susan O’Hara, and Robert Pritchard



*Common Core Standards in Diverse Classrooms’* introduction notes, “Language years to be used in meaningful ways.” The book provides seven key strategies that support language use while building capacity for students to engage with complex texts, interact with one another, and communicate what they have learned in a variety of ways. It is useful for teachers seeking support with the Common Core while also gaining increased understanding of academic language development and disciplinary literacy.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Its focus on language development and disciplinary literacy and built in tools for teacher reflection are helpful for teachers working on their own, coaching others, or collaborating in a community of practice.

***Academic Conversations: Classroom Talk That Fosters Critical Thinking and Content Understandings*** – Jeff Zwiers, Marie Crawford



Conversations, particularly those referred to in this book as *academic conversations*, push students to think and learn in lasting ways. The authors have identified five core communication skills to help students hold productive academic conversations across content areas: elaborating and clarifying, supporting ideas with evidence, building on and/or challenging ideas, paraphrasing, and synthesizing.

- **A Favorite Feature:** The academic conversations placemat (p.68, figure 4.3) and the many ways to weave the cultivation of academic conversation skills into current teaching approaches.



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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### National Writing Project <http://www.nwp.org/>



A network of sites, anchored at colleges and universities and serving teachers across disciplines and at all levels, that provides professional development, develops resources, generates research, and acts on knowledge to improve the teaching of writing and learning in schools and communities.

- **A Favorite Feature:** [Spotlight on Literacy](#) features national and community organizations and projects that support literacy learning for students and adults both in and outside of school.

### National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE) <http://www.ncte.org/>



NCTE is devoted to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education. *"The Council promotes the development of literacy, the use of language to construct personal and public worlds and to achieve full participation in society, through the learning and teaching of English and the related arts and sciences of language."*

- **A Favorite Feature:** From this center for all things English (Language), one is able to find conferences, resources, and a multitude of groups related to literacy, from the elementary grades through college.

### National Center for Literacy Education (NCLE)/Literacy in Learning Exchange

<http://www.literacyinlearningexchange.org/home>



Coalition of stakeholders representing the premiere education organizations, policy analysts, researchers, and foundations who are working together to identify and share the plans, practices, support systems, and assessments used by educator teams working to improve literacy learning. NCLE celebrates the work of successful school teams across the country that are achieving remarkable results in advancing literacy learning, and shares what is learned with education policymakers.

- **A Favorite Feature:** The [resources page](#) provides links to videos, pedagogical articles, teaching ideas, and professional learning opportunities.

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### Mathematics Framework for California Public Schools

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ma/cf/mathfwchapters.asp>



The [Universal Access](#) chapter includes a section entitled “New Language Demands of the CA CCSSM” (pg 667).

- **A Favorite Feature:** Table UA-1. Mathematical Language That May Cause Difficulties for English Learners (pg 870).

### The Literacy Research Association <http://www.literacyresearchassociation.org/>



A community of scholars dedicated to promoting research that enriches the knowledge, understanding, and development of lifespan literacies in a multicultural and multilingual world.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Links to the [annual conference](#) papers and videos.

### Institute of Education Sciences/What Works Clearinghouse <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/default.aspx>



Identifies studies that provide credible and reliable evidence of the effectiveness of a given practice, program, or policy, and disseminates summary information and free reports. With over 700 publications available and more than 11,500 reviewed studies in the online searchable database, the WWC aims to inform researchers, educators, and policymakers as they work toward improving education for students.

- **A Favorite Feature:** [Improving Adolescent Literacy Practice Guide](#) and [Teaching Secondary Students to Write Effectively](#).

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### International Literacy Association <http://www.literacyworldwide.org/>



A global advocacy and membership organization of more than 300,000 literacy educators, researchers, and experts across 75 countries. With over 60 years of experience, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught, and evaluated. Their mission is to empower educators, inspire students, and encourage leaders with the resources they need to make literacy accessible for all.

- **A Favorite Feature:** [Literacy Today](#) bimonthly member magazine and [Literacy Daily](#) blog focused on literacy-related research, including supporting and engaging secondary learners.

### California Subject Matter Projects <https://csmp.ucop.edu/>



A network of nine discipline-based statewide projects supporting ongoing quality professional learning that are fee-based. Activities and programs are designed by university faculty, teacher leaders, and teachers to improve instructional practices and lead to increased achievement for all students. Every project integrates the CCSS for ELA/Literacy into its programs.

- **A Favorite Feature:** The following Projects are especially ELA/Literacy-oriented:
  - [California Writing Project](#)
  - [California Reading and Literature Project](#)
  - [California World Language Project](#)
  - [California History-Social Science Project](#)
  - [California Science Project](#)

### California Reading Association <http://www.californiareads.org/display.asp?p=Home>



A non-profit professional organization of educators who are actively involved in all aspects of reading and language arts education, from kindergarten through university levels. The state organization, an affiliate of the International Reading Association, consists of more than 55 active local reading councils located in different service areas around the state.

- **A Favorite Feature:** [Links to Resources and Organizations](#) page connects the user to a variety of literacy-related resources.

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California ELA/ELD Framework <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/rl/cf/elaldfrmwrksbeadopted.asp>



The *ELA/ELD Framework* breaks new ground by providing a blueprint for the implementation of two sets of interrelated standards: the California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects (CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy) and the California English Language Development Standards (CA ELD Standards). These two sets of standards have wide-ranging importance. The ability to read, write, and communicate with competence and confidence in English across a range of personal and academic contexts expands students' opportunities for career and college success, full and wise participation in a democratic society and global economy, and achievement of their personal aspirations.

- A Favorite Feature:** As if the content of this document wasn't enough, the organization makes it incredibly user friendly. Classroom vignettes and snapshots provide clear and thorough lessons in practice. Examples found in this document cross all grades and disciplines. You will find an example of an ELA/Science interdisciplinary Snapshot on page 585. On pages 698 and page 531 you will find clear descriptions of grade-level disciplinary literacy.

California Department of Education Recommended Literature List <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/rl/>



Searchable database of books for children and teens which helps students, teachers, and families find books that entertain, inform, and explore new ideas and experiences.

- A Favorite Feature:** The variety of filters that can be used to find books of interest for particular students.

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### California Department of Education CCSS Literacy Resources

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/literacyresources.asp>



The [CDE CCSS Literacy Web Page](#) has been updated. Resources on this page are now organized by content area: general, history/social studies, science, and technical subjects. A document by David Coleman, one of the lead writers of the CCSS, is posted to this page: [Guiding Principles for the Arts: Grades K–12](#) (PDF). This document elaborates on the relationship between the standards and the arts.

- **A Favorite Feature:** Links to literacy resources in a variety of content areas.

### American Library Association <http://www.ala.org/>



The American Library Association (ALA) is the oldest and largest library association in the world. Founded on October 6, 1876, the mission of ALA is “to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.”

- **A Favorite Feature:** This site features a variety of supports from lists of award-winning books to “The Top Ten Websites for Teaching and Learning.”

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