

Understanding the Common Core Writing Standards: Grades 6–12

In *Understanding the Common Core Writing Standards: Grades 6–12*, educators will explore the new standards for writing, their spiraling structure, and the classroom implications of implementing the standards. Through a variety of resources in the course, teachers in all content areas will grow to understand the new writing standards and what instructional changes they will need to make to integrate the standards while scaffolding students for success.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to

Module 1

- Analyze how the Common Core writing standards have been designed to prepare students for the demands of college and career writing.
- Compare your current (or prior) writing standards with the Common Core standards and draw conclusions about similarities and differences in writing instruction stemming from each set.

Module 2

- Draw conclusions about the implications of using formative assessment to inform instruction about writing.
- Apply one or more types of formative assessment for writing in the classroom.

Module 3

- List and define the text types and purposes of writing required for your grade level under the Common Core writing standards.
- Identify one mentor text per text type and purpose for your grade level to begin a database of mentor texts for your writing instruction.

Module 4

- Identify expectations for your students when deciding which text types and purposes to use for a writing lesson.
- Develop a standards-based mini-lesson that meets your students' needs.

Module 5

- Apply the elements of the writers' workshop to teach writing that meets the text type and purposes for your grade level.
- Develop an appropriate structure for teaching writing using the writers' workshop approach.

Module 6

- Evaluate research strategies to determine which align to Common Core text types and purposes at your grade level.
- Develop a sample lesson based on the research standard requirements at your grade level.

Course Syllabus

<p>Module 1</p>	<p>Understanding the Common Core Writing Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: An Overview of the Writing Standards • Reading 2: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—Making the Shifts • Audio: Why Writing Matters • Knowledge Check • Application: Comparing Old and New Writing Standards • Post-Module Reflection
<p>Module 2</p>	<p>Formative Assessment for Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: Using Formative Assessment to Grow Writers • Reading 2: <i>Education Update</i>—Improving Student Writing Through Formative Assessments • Video: Tailoring Feedback to Content and Student Needs • Knowledge Check • Application: Assessing Student Writing • Post-Module Reflection
<p>Module 3</p>	<p>Text Types and Purposes for Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: Argumentative, Informative/Explanatory, and Narrative Writing • Reading 2: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—Teaching Genre with Purpose • Video: How Can You Help Students Become Better Writers? • Knowledge Check • Application: Starting a Database of Mentor Texts • Post-Module Reflection

<p>Module 4</p>	<p>The Writing Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—The Trait Lady Speaks Up • Reading 2: Understanding the Writing Process • Reading 3: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—New Literacies and the Common Core • Video: The Three Main Types of Academic Writing • Knowledge Check • Application: Designing Mini-Lessons • Post-Module Reflection
<p>Module 5</p>	<p>Planning for Writing Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: Using a Workshop Approach to Meet Writing Standards • Reading 2: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—Reading, Writing, and Thinking for All • Video: The Writing Process, Writers' Workshop, and the Common Core • Knowledge Check • Application: Making Time for Writing • Post-Module Reflection
<p>Module 6</p>	<p>Research to Build and Present Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: Gaining Knowledge Through Research and Writing • Reading 2: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—Think Before You Write • Audio: The Reading-Writing Connection • Knowledge Check • Application: Teaching Students to Validate Research Sources • Post-Module Reflection

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