

# Utah ELA Core Standards

## K-12 English Language

*The future demands students who retain a love of learning - students with their talents, dreams and passions developed.*



## Overview

### Benefits of Change

The ultimate goal of the change is to ensure that all students are career and college-ready. To accomplish this, the new Utah Core Standards emphasize foundational skills in reading, writing, and communicating. Parents should see increased rigor at all levels and a focus on creativity and critical thinking skills.

### What Has Changed?

- Increase in text complexity
- Increase in teaching non-fiction/informational texts
- Teaching the elements of argument
- Teaching three major writing genres each year (informational/explanatory, narrative, and argument)
- Teaching with inquiry



*The greatest gift is a passion for reading.*

– Elizabeth Hardwick

## ASD Implementation Plan

### 2011-2012

#### Building the Foundation

Training and Collaboration  
Professional development

### 2012-2013

#### Sharpening the Focus

K-5 ELA Standards  
7-12 ELA Standards  
Focus groups  
Collaboration  
Pilot Assessment

### 2013-2014

#### Crafting the Performance

6<sup>th</sup> ELA Standards  
Pilot Assessment

### 2014-2015

State Core Assessment

The Utah Core Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The Standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college, careers, and life.

## The ELA Standards

### Reading

- Foundational Skills (K-5)
- Literature (K-12)
- Informational Text (K-12)

### Writing

- Text types and purpose (K-12)
- Research to present knowledge (K-12)

### Speaking and Listening

- Comprehension and collaboration (K-12)
- Present knowledge and ideas (K-12)

### Language

- Conventions of standard English (K-12)
- Knowledge of language (K-12)
- Vocabulary acquisition and use (K-12)



66% of all jobs in Utah will require postsecondary education. (USOE, 2011)

Jobs today require much higher literacy levels than ever before.

(USOE, 2011)

## What Students Must Be Able To Do

Students can read closely and critically to comprehend a range of increasingly complex literary and informational texts.

Students can produce effective writing for a range of purposes and audiences.

Students can employ effective speaking and listening skills for a range of purposes and audiences.

Students can engage appropriately in collaborative and independent inquiry to investigate/research topics, pose questions, and gather and present information.

Jobs that use lower thinking skills – remembering and understanding – will be quickly outsourced or turned into software. (Lee Crockett, *Literacy is NOT Enough*)



Seven Survival Skills (as defined by business leaders) and Alignment with the new Standards

- Critical thinking/problem solving
  - Collaboration
  - Agility and adaptability
  - Initiative
  - Effective oral and written communication
  - Accessing and analyzing information
  - Curiosity and imagination
- Tony Wagner, Harvard University

## How Our Students Will Benefit

Students must be prepared for success in a global economy. Increasing the rigor of informational and literary texts, demanding competence in writing for any task, for any audience and for any purpose, and teaching critical thinking will not only prepare them for education beyond high school but will build those foundational skills that ensure success as an informed and contributing member of society.