

**Online Course
Common Core
English Language Arts
in a PLC at Work™
Grades 6-8 – Graduate
Credit**

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Introduction to the course

This course provides you with the background and rationale for the implementation of Common Core Standards in a PLC at Work™. It also provides you with tools for unpacking the Common Core Standards in grades 6-8, and will support you in efforts to design a lesson plan for delivering and measuring those standards within the classroom setting.

About Solution Tree Online Courses

Solution Tree partners with noted experts and authors to develop online courses that provide engaging and rigorous professional development. Each course is highly interactive and is facilitated by experts who provide direct and timely feedback to every learner. Courses are comprised of 30 hours of work including videos, reflections, eBook readings, online quizzes and writing assignments. Courses can be taken for CEU credit where states and districts support.

Solution Tree's online platform can be accessed by educators anytime and anywhere there is Internet connectivity. Learners can use desktops, laptops and tablets to access their online courses.

Each course is facilitated by expert teachers and administrators who provide practical and timely feedback on all written assignments. Students can send emails to course facilitators at anytime from within the online course.

Course Objectives

1. Analyze the rationale behind the construction and implementation of Common Core Standards throughout the U.S.
2. Understand the shifts, domains, and anchor and grade level standards of the ELA Common Core.
3. Identify PLC resources for implementing ELA Common Core Standards (grades 6-8).
4. Unpack and interpret the ELA Common Core Reading Standards (grades 6-8).
5. Align learning activities and assessments with Common Core Reading Standards (grades 6-8).

6. Apply knowledge of curriculum mapping to implement the Common Core Reading Standards (grades 6-8).
7. Identify appropriate strategies for assessing Common Core ELA Reading Standards (grades 6-8).
8. Unpack and interpret the ELA Common Core Writing Standards (grades 6-8).
9. Align learning activities and assessments with Common Core Writing Standards (grades 6-8).
10. Apply knowledge of curriculum mapping to implement the Common Core Writing Standards (grades 6-8).
11. Identify appropriate strategies for assessing Common Core ELA Writing Standards (grades 6-8).
12. Unpack and interpret the ELA Common Core Speaking, Listening and Language Standards (grades 6-8).
13. Align learning activities and assessments with Common Core Speaking, Listening and Language Standards (grades 6-8).
14. Apply knowledge of curriculum mapping to implement the Common Core Speaking, Listening and Language Standards (grades 6-8).
15. Identify appropriate strategies for assessing Common Core ELA Speaking, Listening and Language Standards (grades 6-8).

Opportunities for Assessment & Application

This course will provide you with background on ELA Common Core Standards and help you identify and utilize resources and protocols to facilitate student mastery of Common Core ELA standards. The course will provide you with a framework by which you can unpack ELA Common Core Standards, and then design instruction, assessment criteria and tools (rubrics) that support mastery of standards for *all* students. You will also explore strategies that can be employed to foster successful PLC outcomes when unpacking standards, mapping curriculum, and designing lessons and specific assessment tools. You will have an opportunity to explore Common Core standard types (reading, writing, and speaking and listening for language).

Each module of this online course will contain two assessments:

1. A reflection in which learners will be asked to state their opinions or thoughts on the topics covered in the module, defended by evidence from the content in the module. Reflections are given a pass/fail grade and constructive feedback by the course facilitator.
2. An online quiz containing between 5 and 10 multiple-choice questions on the topics covered in the module. Online quizzes are automatically graded and learners are provided immediate feedback.

In addition to these assessments, the online course contains two “Apply what you’ve Learned Assessments”. As the name indicates, these assessments are written projects requiring research, synthesis and application of the concepts covered in multiple modules. Apply what you’ve Learned Assessments occur at the mid-point and end of the course.

Readings & Supplemental Support Material:

Douglas Fisher and Nancy Frey (2013). *Common Core English language arts in a PLC at work: grades 6-8*. Bloomington, IN: Solution Tree.

Videos from the Solution Tree Archives/Library

Scope and Sequence

Module 1 - Understanding the Common Core and the Role of PLCs

- Video Introduction
- A Deeper Read – Chapter 1, Using Collaborative Teams for English Language Arts
- Reflective Conversation
- Key Things to Remember
- Quiz
- Conclusion

Module 2 - Common Core Standards for Reading

- Video Introduction

- **A Deeper Read – Chapter 2, Implementing the Common Core State Standards for Reading**
- **Reflective Conversation**
- **Key Things to Remember**
- **Quiz**
- **Conclusion**

Module 3 - Common Core Standards for Writing

- **Video Introduction**
- **A Deeper Read – Chapter 3, Implementing the Common Core State Standards for Writing**
- **Reflective Conversation**
- **Key Things to Remember**
- **Quiz**
- **Conclusion**

Mid-Term: Apply what you've Learned Assessment

Learners are required to:

- Unpack one of the Common Core ELA Standards.
- List what learners need to know (concepts) and should be able to do (skills). Then identify where the concept and skill falls on the DOK chart and/or Bloom's taxonomy.
- Identify the Big ideas (understandings the learners will remember long after the unit of study).
- Write two Essential Questions (questions that guide instruction and assessment for all lesson activities. Essential questions provide guidance for the big ideas, and should extend the learning beyond basic comprehension).
- List two ideas on how the standard can be accurately assessed.

This assessment is provided a grade by the course facilitator based on a published rubric.

Module 4 - Common Core Standards for Speaking and Listening

- **Video Introduction**
- **A Deeper Read – Chapter 4, Implementing the Common Core State Standards for Speaking and Listening and for Language**
- **Reflective Conversation**
- **Key Things to Remember**
- **Quiz**
- **Conclusion**

Module 5 - Assessment of the Common Core State Standards

- **Video Introduction**
- **A Deeper Read – Chapter 5, Implementing Formative Assessments to Guide Instruction and Intervention**
- **Reflective Conversation**
- **Key Things to Remember**
- **Quiz**
- **Conclusion**

Module 6 - Curriculum Mapping & Lesson Planning with the Common Core

- **Video Introduction**
- **A Deeper Read – Curriculum Planning and Lesson Planning**
- **Reflective Conversation**
- **Key Things to Remember**
- **Quiz**

- **Conclusion**

Final: Apply what you've Learned Assessment

Building on the mid-term assignment, learners are required to:

- Create a detailed lesson plan based on 1-2 of the Common Core Standards for Speaking and Listening and for Language. Learners must do the following:
 - Identify the grade level.
 - Identify the subject area.
 - Identify the Standard(s).
 - Identify the anchor standards.
 - Identify Key Vocabulary for unwrapping the standard.
 - Create 1-2 "I Can" learning targets.
 - Describe assessment strategies that will be implemented to monitor and assess learner mastery of the learning targets. Identify specific tools and criteria that will be used to assess standard mastery.
 - Describe the Main Activity that will facilitate active engagement and guided practice in the learning the concept and/or skill. Describe how it facilitates mastery of the standard(s) and learning target.
 - Describe strategies that will be implemented to assist struggling learners in standard mastery.
 - Describe strategies that will be implemented to extend the lesson to provide additional challenges for learners who have already mastered the standard.
 - Identify a strategy your PLC can employ to ensure that all learners achieve standard mastery.

This assessment is provided a grade by the course facilitator based on a published rubric.