

### Writing About Text

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- Past standards have emphasized writing as a free-standing subject or skill
- Students have been expected to be able to write texts requiring low information (or only the use of widely available background knowledge)
- The common core puts greater emphasis on the use of evidence in writing
- Thus, the major emphasis shifts from writing stories or opinion pieces to writing about the ideas in text

#### Implications for Writing About Text

- Writing will need to be more closely integrated with reading comprehension instruction
- The amount of writing about what students read will need to increase
- Greater emphasis on synthesis of information and critical essays than in the past

### Argumentation

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- Past standards have tended to treat text as being just a form of neutral information
- The common core state standards begin with the theoretical premise that texts (and other forms of language) are a form of argument
- Given the emphasis on argument, critical reading (and writing) take center stage in the new common core standards

#### Implications for Argumentation

- Teachers will be expected to teach students to discern the arguments underlying a text or presentation
- Need for a greater emphasis on trying to figure out author perspective, tone, position
- Much greater emphasis on the use of evidence
- Greater emphasis on making one's own arguments (persuasion is only one aspect of this)

### Technology

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- The emphasis on technology has been minimal in past English language arts standards
- Again, the idea has been that students would learn generalizable reading and writing skills and then they could apply these within any context or technology
- The common core state standards reflect a much heavier emphasis on how to take advantage of the affordances provided by technology

#### Implications for Use of Technology

- Students are going to need to know how to search, read, and use information drawn from the Internet.
- Students are going to need to know how to use word processors and other technological supports in their writing
- Students are going to need to know how to use presentation software in their oral presentations
- Students are going to need to know how to use various online references

#### Implications for Writing Instruction

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- Greater emphasis on synthesis of information and critical essays than in the past
- Teachers will be expected to teach students to discern the arguments underlying a text or presentation
- Need for a greater emphasis on trying to figure out author perspective, tone, position
- Much greater emphasis on the use of evidence
- Greater emphasis on making one's own arguments (persuasion is only one aspect of this)