

Implementing Common Core Standards

According to the Common Core State Standards Initiative's website the standard is a state-led effort developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts, to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare children for college and the workforce. The standards define the knowledge and skills students should have during their K-12 educational experience so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs. The standards: 1. Are aligned with college and work expectations; 2. Are clear, understandable and consistent; 3. Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills; 4. Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards; 5. Are informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and 6. Are evidence-based. The Key Points of English Language Arts are reading, writing, speaking and listening, language and media and technology. Of the 55 states and territories of the United States eight have yet to adopt the standards.

Focusing on all Five Strands of English Language Arts as well as the Common Core State Standards of English Language Arts, my long-term goals for this unit are five-fold. First, to enhance communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal, while second, improving student's ability to express individual perspectives, third, increase vocabulary skills, fourth, refine critical thinking and argumentative skills and last, increase grammatical skills and language usage. My long-term goal of communication is extremely vital for these students who are college bound and future leaders of their communities and professions, serving in these various competencies they must be able to effectively communicate in both a verbal and non-verbal manner, therefore I must take an active role as the form their communication foundation.

My writing goal for this unit is that each student will write an argumentative essay that encompasses the key components of an effective Argumentative Essay. The paper opens with an interesting introduction and the appropriate audience is address throughout the paper. The writer takes a clear position on an issue and supports it with appropriate examples, personal or factual information. Include numerous specific and interesting details that more than adequately supports position. The paper is written in a manner that demonstrates organization and focus that is logical and consistent. The essay ends with a call to action in the closing. A variety of sentence patterns are used. Writing allows an opportunity for the student to brainstorm, utilize and develop reasoning and elaboration skills.