

La Porte ISD ELA Vertical Alignment Meeting

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La Porte High School

Introductions: Eveline M. Bailey

- Teaching English for 17 years
- Certified 6-12 ELA, 6-12 Government
- LPHS English Department Chair
- AP English Literature teacher
- AP College Board English Lit Reader
- AP Program Director
- ^{NEW} AP Capstone Director
- Texas AP Advocate
- National Literacy Consultant
- US Department of Education (ED) Consultant

Today's Schedule

8:00-8:30: State of Texas STAAR ELA and PSAT/SAT Updates

8:30-9:45: Critical Reading and Critical Thinking Workshop

9:30-9:45: Break

9:45-11:30: Expository Writing Workshop

11:30-12:45: Lunch

12:45-3:30: Lesson and Unit Planning—Integrating CRTW

TEA Updates: STAAR Writing

In 2016, Grade 4 and Grade 7 STAAR Writing Tests will be

- Expository only
- One writing prompt
- Fewer multiple choice
- Fewer field questions

7th Grade Writing Schemata change

Currently, the State House and Senate are debating a bill to reconsider the assessed TEKS for 2016 tests to accommodate the school year and the expectation for how much content can reasonably be covered.

If passed, new blueprints will be posted after January.

The SAT Suite of Assessments

The New SAT: New, Improved, and Actually Relevant!

- Practice Test and Essay

PSAT/NMSQT: For Juniors, designed to prepare for SAT

^{NEW} PSAT 10: A new test designed to level up instruction and prepare students for PSAT and SAT

^{NEW} PSAT 8/9: Provides a baseline score for students and replaces ReadStep.

Key take-aways from PSAT 8/9—

- ✓ Evidence-based questions over reading passage
- ✓ Vocabulary in context
- ✓ History, Science passages requiring inferencing skills

What does this mean for us?

- We teach students to read, think, and write critically.

Critical Reading

Reading, Thinking, and Writing work in tandem.

We must teach students to read, think, and write critically about what they've read and thought about critically.

To do this, we choose texts that

- Are diverse
- Are interdisciplinary
- Are connected through paired passages
- Invite discussion and critical questioning

Critical Reading Skills

Inferencing skills: the hardest to teach students to do.

ELA TEKS Figure 19, the most tested TEKS on all ELA STAAR exams

- Asks students to formulate thematic questions about the text
- Asks students to make complex inferences about the text
- Asks students to make connections between and across texts
- Requires students to use relevant textual support

Critical questions to encourage inferencing skills:

- What does ___ suggest about ___?
- How did you arrive at your conclusion?
- What evidence best supports your conclusion?
- And above all else, *why?*

Strategies for Critical Reading

Close Reading Strategies

Notice and Note, Kyleene Beers and Robert E. Probst

- *Notice and Note* Signposts
- *Notice and Note* Bookmarks: print for student use while reading
- *Notice and Note* Reading Logs: printable for student use during guided and independent reading.

Good for novice readers, developing readers, struggling readers, and ELL/SpEd/504.

Students experience a text rather than consume or “get through” a text.

Strategies for Critical Reading

Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS)

- Develop HOTS through Critical Questioning
 - Engage students in their thought processes
 - Model-aloud high-order thinking
 - Let students see you draw on relevant background knowledge
 - Let students see you making important intertextual connections
 - Let students see you consider an idea and keep/discard based on merit
 - Let students see you use textual evidence to support your conclusions
- Critical Reading Verbs List

Let's practice: "Birthday Party" by Katharine Brush.

- *Notice and Note* Signposts
- HOTS Questions
- Seminar

Break

15 minutes

Critical Writing

Uses Reading and Thinking as a springboard for writing since all communication, both oral and written, are responses to an outward stimulus.

Choosing engaging texts that invite critical thought leads to critical writing, a point we will explore in a few minutes.

For our students to be successful, we need a common vocabulary.

Critical Writing: Common Vocabulary

Thesis

- Controlling idea for an essay
- A claim that will be proven
- A position the writer will take
- A hypothesis

Evidence

- Quote
- Specific paraphrase
- Real-world example

Explanation

- What do you mean?
- How did you get it? (evidence, line of reasoning)

Elaboration

- How does it work?
- Why does it matter?

Critical Writing Skills

Writing-to-learn activities

- are short, often informal writing tasks that allow students to think through key concepts or ideas presented in a class
- can be used as formative assessments or as brainstorming (aka: brainstorming)
- can be done in as few as 2 minutes or as long as 10-15 minutes, depending upon the activity
- are crucial to any discipline because they best meet learning standards and goals in all subject areas.

Critical Writing Skills

Writing to perform (or Exhibition writing) activities

- all formal, academic writing
- for STAAR, this includes OER and composition
- allow students the opportunity to practice with the language of a specific discipline, as well as with the formats typical of a given discipline (i.e. MLA, APA, Turabian, Chicago).
- help students understand the various purposes and audiences for writing
- ensure students are academically prepared for college and/or workplace writing

Critical Writing Skills

How are reading, thinking, and writing interconnected?

- Bloom's Taxonomy and STAAR Levels of Critical Writing

Why is writing so important?

- It helps students articulate their thought processes
- It solidifies knowledge
- It clarifies information
- It informs writers of needed knowledge

Teachers as Writers: Model Writing

The very best method to teach writing is *to write in front of your students*.

- They see that good writing isn't always the *first* writing
- They understand that writing is an organic process
- They understand how to articulate the connections they make
- They learn how to extend their analysis beyond the obvious
- They learn new vocabulary
- They learn how to tie their essay together coherently

Teachers as Writers: Model Writing

Walk students through every stage of the writing process:

- Breaking down the prompt
- Brainstorming
- Organizing
- Writing/drafting

Model the Prewriting Process

STAAR Expository Writing

STAAR Expository Writing:

- Performance Level Descriptors, Grade 7
- Performance Level Descriptors, English I

What's tested and how is it scored?

- 2015 Grade 7 Released test
- Sample essays
- 2015 English I Released test
- Sample essays

STAAR Expository Writing Strategies

Writing Portfolio folders and reflective writing

Prompts using “The Birthday Party”

- Expository writing prompts
- Expository writing strategies

Scaffolding Writing Instruction

- Model-Aloud writing
- Shared writing
- Guided writing
- Independent writing

Balanced Literacy

Achieving balance

- Reading-writing connection: tying books being read aloud and/or studied in class to writing lessons and research reports/projects
- Writing in various modes/genres: producing narratives, journals, brochures, essays, social studies reports, movie reviews, web site reviews, letters to the editor, book reviews for expository, persuasive, and academic purposes
- Emphasis on revision: revising pieces thoughtfully over time—not a new piece of writing each day (much writing will not leave draft form)
- Conference/assessment notes: keeping a writing portfolio for each student to reflect on strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and growth
- Spelling and vocabulary: connecting both to writing, reading and language use not isolated from these elements
- Sentence structure and conventions: practicing in context with student sample writing, using mini-lessons, not isolated skills sheets.

Question and Answer



Afternoon Tasks

Work with Peter and me to integrate reading, thinking, and writing into upcoming units and lessons.

Write the following for upcoming lessons and units:

- Critical Reading questions using *Notice and Note* Strategies and Questions
- HOTS Critical Thinking questions using HOTS Sheet
- Expository essay prompts for each lesson/unit

Lunch

Be back at 12:30.

We will resume at 12:40

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Feedback is welcome! Visit www.embteach.com/literacy-consultant and
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