

Common Core: Emerging Digital Resources and Platforms

Core of the Common Core

1. A framework of K-12 critical reading and math expectations that undergirds all content classes
 - Adopted by 46 states and DC.
 - Assessments coming in 2014, being developed by two consortia: PARCC, SBAC
 - Tests will be digital (CAT)
 - Link for suggested technology requirements: <http://www.parcconline.org/instructional-technology-purchases-guidance>
2. CC asks a great deal more of students and teachers, but provides clear, carefully mapped steps that build across the year and from grade to grade
3. Key changes: the dominance of nonfiction (“narrative” and “informational” texts):
 - 50% of all reading in Elementary School
 - 55% of all reading in Middle School
 - 70% of all reading in High School

This is across all subjects from Language Arts to Social Studies and Science
4. Depth over breadth
 - “Covering” a litany of names and dates replaced by close reading and analysis
5. Increasing text complexity
 - Addresses mismatch between growing need for sophisticated reading in college and workplace and lowering of K-12 reading expectations
6. Focus on evidence, analysis, argument, not personal, subjective response
 - Research papers requiring comparison of different sources, examination of evidence, and formulating coherent argument replace personal essays, and emotional persuasion
7. All nonfiction has a Point of View
 - Does not mean all views are equal, but that students read to recognize author’s stance, and compare and contrast with others—juxtaposing views valued over bland digest
8. Visual literacy
 - Reading nonfiction involves decoding images as well as text
9. Digital literacy
 - Students learn to use variety of media resources to research subjects.
10. Grid of clear expectations combined with digital assessments allows fine-grained attention to student progress and maps across districts and states.