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.