

ELA Item Alignment Modules User Guide

Overview:

The Item Alignment Modules are a set of professional development materials intended to provide users with a deep understanding of the expectations of high-quality ELA /Literacy items aligned to the Common Core State Standards for Reading, through the lens of items resembling those used for summative assessments. These modules can serve as a resource for a variety of users and purposes. The table below provides some examples of potential uses, noting how the modules may need to be modified to suit specific purposes.

Please note: The table is not exhaustive, but it can serve as a reference as you consider how to best use these modules to suit your specific needs.

Audience and Purpose:

While the Grade-Specific Modules are developed with the CCSS in mind, the principles in the High-Quality Reading Items modules are based on Section B.3 of the CCSSO Criteria for Evaluating and Procuring High-Quality Assessments and can be used in states that use the Common Core State Standards as well as states that have created their own college- and career- readiness standards.		
If you are a(n)...	Use these modules to...	Address this need by...
Assessment Developer	train item authors and reviewers on the nuances of writing questions aligned to the expectations of the CCSS for summative assessment.	presenting the High-Quality Reading Items Module in conjunction with the Grade-Specific Module(s) as a complete suite of training materials, and/or using the knowledge gained and or the specific examples of well aligned items to create or update items specifications documents, or to create or update quality checklists for internal reviews (or use the ELA/Literacy Passage and Item Checklist).
State Department of Education staff member	train vendors, item authors, and reviewers in the nuances of writing questions aligned to the expectations of both the CCSS and the CCSSO Criteria for Evaluating and Procuring High Quality Assessments, Section B.3.	presenting the High-Quality Reading Items Module in conjunction with the Grade-Specific Module(s) as a suite of training materials, and/or using the knowledge gained from the High-Quality Reading Items Module and the relevant Grade-Specific

		Module(s) to create or update item specifications documents or to create or update quality checklists for internal reviews (or use the SAP ELA/Literacy Passage and Item Checklists).
	support the evaluation of an assessment program when considering creating or adopting a new or existing assessment program.	referencing the High-Quality Reading Items Module and/or the relevant Grade-Specific Module(s) as a source of well-aligned example items as you conduct your review of individual items.
District Level Administrator	train item writers or reviewers in the nuances of writing questions aligned to the expectations of the CCSS for classroom assessment.	presenting the High-Quality Reading Items module in conjunction with an individual Grade-Specific Module(s). Be sure to note that items may be slightly modified (e.g., multiple-choice options can be removed) to represent classroom questions, and that some of the ideas presented apply specifically to summative assessments.
	support the evaluation of an assessment program when considering creating or adopting a new or existing assessment program.	referencing the High-Quality Reading Items Module and the relevant Grade-Specific Module(s) as a source of well-aligned example items as you conduct your review of individual items.
Professional Development Leader	train teachers and teacher leaders to better understand the expectations of the Standards, through the lens of summative assessment questions.	presenting the High-Quality Reading Items Module with the appropriate Grade-Specific Module(s) Be sure to note that item types might be slightly modified (e.g., multiple-choice options can be removed) to represent classroom questions, and that some of the ideas apply specifically to summative assessments.
	train teachers and teacher leaders about types of questions students may encounter on summative assessments.	presenting the High-Quality Reading Items Module in conjunction with the Grade-Specific Module(s) as a complete suite of training materials.
Teacher	gain a deeper understanding of grade-specific reading standards.	reviewing the High-Quality Reading Items Module in conjunction with an individual Grade-Specific Module; Specifically, focusing on the slides

		that explain the language of the anchor standards and outline how the grade-specific standards differ.
	gain a deeper understanding of the articulation of the standards across the grades.	choosing a specific standard and comparing items from the Grade-Specific Modules across the grades.
	gain a deeper understanding of characteristics of high-quality reading questions to assist with the creation or selection of classroom questions aligned to the Common Core State Standards.	reviewing the High-Quality Reading Items and Grade-Specific Module(s), paying attention to the alignment description slides and the wording of the questions. Be sure to note that item types might be slightly modified to better reflect classroom learning, and that some of the ideas apply specifically to summative assessments.
	engage with examples of the types of questions students may encounter on summative assessments.	reviewing the High-Quality Reading Items module in conjunction with the Grade-Specific Module(s).