

ACHIEVE THE CORE

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Core Advocate Newsletter

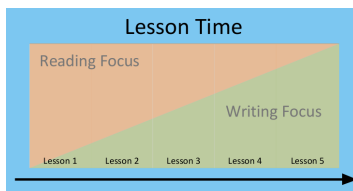
New Tools, Core Advocate Stories and Ways to Get Involved

It's August!

Happy August, Core Advocates! Did you know:

- August is the eighth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendar and was named after Caesar Augustus in 8 B.C.?
- August is considered the busiest time for tourism because it falls in the main school summer holiday period?
- August does not start on the same day of the week as any other month in the common calendar? In a leap year, August and February start on the same day of the week.

Whether you are enjoying a fresh start to the new school year or savoring the last weeks of summer vacation this August, we hope you find interesting and helpful information in this month's Core Advocate Newsletter.



What to do with a book

During the *Elevating Instructional Advocacy* conference in Denver last May, Core Advocate Lorraine Griffith shared ideas about "What to Do With a Book." She uses a week-long, structured plan for instruction grounded in a complex text. Access the presentation and handouts [here](#).



August Core Advocates Webinar

Join us on Tuesday, August 16th from 7:00 - 8:00 pm EDT for our next Core Advocate Webinar, "Understanding and Using Imperfect Curricular Materials." Register [here](#) and attend with your peers to learn about resources and strategies for using your curriculum, even if it's not perfectly aligned to the Standards.

*Starting in September, Core Advocate Webinars will be held on the **first Wednesday of each month from**

7:00 - 8:00 Eastern. Please mark your calendar with these new dates and don't miss a thing!

Question of the Month

We need your input for our August webinar, "Understanding and Using Imperfect Curricular Materials." Respond to this month's question using the link below. Not only will you be entered in our monthly drawing for a **\$25 Amazon gift card**, but your response may be featured during the August 16th webinar!

Q: How are you using instructional materials that are not perfectly aligned to the Standards and the Shifts?

[Submit Your Answer](#)

Lisa Quon won a \$25 Amazon gift card for her response to last month's question: ***How are you recharging over the summer?*** See her answer and others below and be sure to answer this month's question for your chance to be our next winner!



Cross-country travel to learn

I'm traveling from California to New York University to participate in professional learning about our founding fathers and to explore famous sites!

-Lisa Quon

Other responses

Summer is time to read, relax, research, and set goals for the new school year. I take time to reflect over what has worked and what I would like to change before heading back to school. Having a personal focus helps tie everything together with less stress.
-Kim Thomas

I'm taking Achieve the Core's **summer reading challenge!**
-Denise Rawding

I am going to graduate school to recharge this summer! I feel like continuing my education is the best way to keep up to date on the most recent research and educational trends.
-Laurel Halphen

This may not sound like the typical recharge, but I am moving my classroom. After 15 years, it is so refreshing to reflect on what I've done in the past and what is going on today in the world of education!
-Pam Monteferrante

[What question would you ask our readers?](#)

Resources for Learning

Implementing the Common Core with ELLs: Do you wonder how to support English Language Learners (ELLs) in your classroom? Check out [this series](#) on Aligned for finding and using effective curricular resources with your students.

Addressing the Achievement Gap: Daniel Willingham, Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia, shares interesting data from a recent study on disadvantaged students' success in college. Read more [here](#).

Do you use GO Math! in your school? Click here to learn more about the GO Math! Materials Alignment Project at SAP

Instructional Advocacy

Blogging about the Common Core

In a recent blog, Core Advocate Dayna Burke shared her experiences as Arizona transitioned to the Common Core in 2010. "I was unsure of how I should feel. During that time, my principal was instrumental in pointing out how teachers across the state would have to change their instruction if they hoped to achieve the huge gains in student learning we all dream of." Read more about her experience and how she has used resources from [Achieve the Core](#) by clicking [here](#).

Become a Teacher Champion

The [Collaborative for Student Success](#) is accepting applications for their Teacher Champions. These educators receive paid communications and media training, have the opportunity to expand their professional networks, and share their voices in print and media. Additionally, they receive a \$5,000 state grant to fund their work. If you are employed by a public school district in **Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, New Mexico, North Dakota, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia, or Wyoming** and would like to learn more about Teacher Champions, please contact [Katrina Boone](#), Director of Teacher Outreach.

Share your expertise at the International Literacy Association conference

The [International Literacy Association](#) is now accepting proposals for its July, 2017 conference in Orlando, FL. This is a great opportunity to flex your Instructional Advocacy muscles and to share SAP's ELA tools and resources with a broader audience. Check out the [submission guidelines](#), then [complete your proposal](#) by September 6th. The literacy world is waiting to hear from you!

Cross-country travel to learn

Louisiana Core Advocates, Debbie Reed, Michelle Kreamer, and Lacey Noel (pictured left with their coach



Sherri Thorne) participated in the **Call to Action** set by **Achieve** to create high quality instructional materials that align to Common Core. Their 11th grade Career and Technical education **lesson** received an Exemplar rating with Achieve's **EQiP rubric**. Way to go, ladies!

What Instructional Advocacy Efforts are YOU engaged in? Tell us about it by [clicking here](#). We'd love to feature YOU in an upcoming newsletter!

Upcoming State Core Advocate Events

Several states in our network are launching Instructional Advocacy efforts in the upcoming months. Click on the state name to learn more or get involved.

New Jersey

September 17-18, 2016 in Princeton

New York

October 22-23, 2016 in Albany

Connecticut

January 7-8, 2017, location TBD

Ohio

January 21-22, 2017, location TBD

Social Media Spotlight



Jessica Cuthbertson @JJCuthy · 23h

Can #CCSS reading tests ever be fair? ow.ly/iOeQ302VC60 Interesting piece & need for #CoreAdvocates voice & leadership persists!





Achieve the Core

July 30 at 3:13pm · 🌐



Take time to reflect on classroom practice and plan for growth as the new school year approaches. Tune into archived footage from the July #CoreAdvocates webinar to make your Teachers' New Year's Resolution for the 2016-17 school year!

<http://achievethecore.org/.../teachers-new-year-resolution-us...>



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Bev Mackie Davis What a great webinar! This was really helpful as I plan for a PD session on Aug. 3rd. Fellow core advocate, Elaine Collins and I will be leading a session on the IPG at the Vermont Principal's Academy Summer Leadership Academy. Thanks for the great resources!

Like · Reply · 👍 2 · July 31 at 6:49am



Achieve the Core Good luck with your PD session! Let us know how it goes!

Like · Reply · 👍 1 · August 1 at 6:36am



Sandra Alberti @salberti · Jul 26

So excited to share the power of instructional advocacy w NCAE

#coreadvocates #ncaeILLI2016



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Daramecia Crane @DarameciaC · Jul 21

Teachers spend their summers encouraging readers! #coreadvocates



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