

DEVELOPING TEXT-DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

PURPOSE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
Build Knowledge	What is text complexity and why does it matter? (2016 Feb Webinar): After walking through what makes a text complex, this webinar addresses how to plan for the specific features that make text complex and create questions that will help students build their understanding.	http://achievethecore.org/page/2793/what-is-text-complexity-and-why-does-it-matter-2016-feb-webinar
	Research Supporting the ELA Standards and Shifts: This is a selected bibliography with research supporting the instructional Shifts demanded by the Common Core and research relevant to the implementation of those Shifts.	http://achievethecore.org/page/2669/research-supporting-the-ela-standards-and-shifts
	Text-Dependent Questions: These materials provide guidance and templates for creating effective text-dependent questions.	http://achievethecore.org/category/1158/ela-literacy-text-dependent-questions
Share with Groups	Understanding Text-Dependent Questions: This 1-4 hour module is designed to promote understanding of how text-dependent questions support the key Shifts required by the Common Core State Standards for ELA/Literacy.	http://achievethecore.org/page/396/understanding-text-dependent-questions
	Lesson Planning Tool: This tool provides guiding questions and supports to help teachers create close reading lessons that align to the Shifts required by the Common Core. It includes a module dedicated to creating text-dependent questions, activities, and tasks.	http://achievethecore.org/lesson-planning-tool/
	Introduction to the Criteria and Metrics of the IMET: The second part of this PD module (102) focuses on identifying aligned questions, tasks, and assignments in instructional materials. It provides examples and non-examples from textbooks, as well as activities to help develop understanding about what effect text-dependent questions look like.	http://achievethecore.org/page/2771/4-introduction-to-the-criteria-metrics-of-the-imet-ela-literacy-professional-development
Try in the Classroom	Read Aloud Project: The Read Aloud Project offers Common Core-aligned lessons for K-2 read-aloud books. These lessons have been developed with an emphasis on key aspects of the Common Core, including quality sequenced text-dependent questions, improved speaking, listening and writing tasks, and a focus on academic vocabulary.	http://achievethecore.org/category/411/ela-literacy-lessons?filter_cat=788&sort=name
	Basal Alignment Project: The Basal Alignment Project offers replacement lessons for basal readers developed prior to the Common Core State Standards. These lessons have been developed with an emphasis on key aspects of the Common Core, including quality sequenced text-dependent questions, improved integrated writing tasks, and a focus on academic vocabulary. [See the Anthology Alignment Project for lessons for grades 6-12.]	http://achievethecore.org/category/411/ela-literacy-lessons?filter_cat=696&sort=name
	Close Reading Model Lessons: These close reading lessons focus on rich text, high-quality text-dependent questions, and aligned culminating writing assignments.	http://achievethecore.org/category/411/ela-literacy-lessons?filter_cat=700&sort=name
	Mini-Assessments: These mini-assessments illustrate the Shifts required by the Common Core and represent the demands of all college and career readiness standards. They each include grade-appropriate complex texts and high-quality, text-dependent questions.	http://achievethecore.org/category/415/ela-literacy-assessments

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE THROUGH READING

PURPOSE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
Build Knowledge	A Different Look at the Causes of the Achievement Gap in Reading (2015 Aug Webinar): This webinar offers the chance to explore the achievement gap and further understand why the gap in reading continues to grow as less affluent students progress through school. Literacy and ELA teachers in grades K-12 will benefit from this important information, and will learn about text set resources to support teaching and learning in their own classrooms.	http://achievethecore.org/page/2799/a-different-look-at-the-causes-of-the-achievement-gap-in-reading-2015-aug-webinar
	Building Knowledge: Research Supporting Shift 3: A summary of key research and relevant findings related to building knowledge can be found here.	http://achievethecore.org/page/2668/building-knowledge-research-supporting-shift-3
	"Both And" Literacy Instruction: An "either-or" approach to concepts like close reading and volume of reading leaves important elements out. This paper discusses the essential elements of a comprehensive K-5 ELA/literacy curriculum that aims to support all students.	http://achievethecore.org/page/687/both-and-literacy-instruction
	Aligned > Supplementing Your Curriculum with Knowledge Building Text Sets: This <i>Aligned</i> blog post speaks to why text sets work and how to use them to build student knowledge.	http://achievethecore.org/aligned/supplementing-your-curriculum-with-knowledge-building-text-sets/
	Aligned > Reading to Learn: This blog post describes the many ways you can use supplementary text sets alongside your existing curriculum to build knowledge.	https://achievethecore.org/aligned/reading-to-learn/
	Aligned > Designing Classroom Libraries that Build Knowledge, Vocabulary, and Engagement: This blog post describes how reorganizing classroom libraries by topic rather than reading level can enhance knowledge building (and student motivation) during independent reading time.	https://achievethecore.org/aligned/designing-classroom-libraries-that-build-knowledge-vocabulary-and-engagement/
Share with Groups	Text Set Project: Building Knowledge and Vocabulary: Text sets support all learners, especially those with background knowledge or vocabulary deficits, by building up these domains through a volume of reading. The training is for teachers, librarians, and media specialists and includes materials and activities that enable participants to begin creating and using Expert Packs to support students in building knowledge, vocabulary, and the capacity to read independently.	http://achievethecore.org/page/1099/text-set-project-building-knowledge-and-vocabulary
	Book Basket Project: This resource kit includes all the materials you need to start a Book Basket Project in your school: instructions, professional development content, sample text sets, and promotional handouts. [For an intro to Book Baskets, see http://achievethecore.org/aligned/designing-classroom-libraries-that-build-knowledge-vocabulary-and-engagement/]	http://achievethecore.org/page/3081/book-basket-project
Try in the Classroom	Text Sets: Text Sets support all learners, especially those with background knowledge or vocabulary deficits, by building up these domains through a volume of reading on science, social studies, and other high-interest topics. These lessons have been developed with an emphasis on building knowledge and developing academic vocabulary to support reading grade-level complex text independently and proficiently.	http://achievethecore.org/category/411/ela-literacy-lessons?filter_cat=1112&sort=name
	Research Packs: Reading and Writing Lessons: Research Packs guide students and teachers through the process of focused research and writing to inform or explain. The K-5 Research Packs were collaboratively developed by educators under the guidance of the Vermont Writing Collaborative. These lessons have been developed with an emphasis on building knowledge from reading grade-level informational text and using evidence from text in writing.	http://achievethecore.org/category/411/ela-literacy-lessons?filter_cat=1192&sort=name

IDENTIFYING AND SCAFFOLDING COMPLEX TEXT

PURPOSE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
Build Knowledge	What is text complexity and why does it matter? (2016 Feb Webinar): College- and career-ready standards require all students to engage meaningfully with complex texts on a regular basis, but what does the term "complex" actually mean in relation to the reading materials you use with your students? How does a Lexile score factor into the determination? This webinar addresses these questions and more.	http://achievethecore.org/page/2793/what-is-text-complexity-and-why-does-it-matter-2016-feb-webinar
	Supporting ALL Learners in Accessing Complex Text (February 2017 Webinar): Research tells us that students' ability to work with complex text is the most important factor in college and career readiness in reading. This webinar features effective instructional practices to support students who are most challenged by complex text.	http://achievethecore.org/page/2974/supporting-all-learners-in-accessing-complex-text-february-2017-webinar
	Research Supporting Shift 1: A summary of key research and relevant findings related to what makes text complex and why giving students opportunities to read grade-appropriate complex text is so important.	http://achievethecore.org/page/2666/complex-text-research-supporting-shift-1
	Implementation - The Role of Close Reading: Close reading is an instructional approach strongly associated with the Shifts. It is designed to help make students better readers and give all students access to the content in grade-level complex text through intentional, built-in scaffolds. The close reading method is based on several key components, each of which has a strong research base. Find a summary of that key research here.	http://achievethecore.org/page/2665/implementation-the-role-of-close-reading
	Aligned > Supporting All Learners with Complex Texts: Strategies to scaffold instruction of standards-aligned, complex texts: This <i>Aligned</i> blog post offers practical suggestions for supporting all students with complex text. [You can find a PD bundle of <i>Aligned</i> posts on this topic on Pinterest: https://www.pinterest.com/achievethecore/supporting-struggling-learners-bite-size-pd/]	http://achievethecore.org/aligned/supporting-all-learners-with-complex-texts/
	Aligned > Top 5 Questions About ELA Scaffolding in High School – A high school English teacher explains some of his strategies for scaffolding complex text for older students.	https://achievethecore.org/aligned/top-5-questions-about-ela-scaffolding-in-high-school/
	Aligned > Top 5 Questions about ELA Scaffolding in Elementary School – A curriculum manager and former elementary school teacher offers strategies for scaffolding instruction with complex text in elementary school.	https://achievethecore.org/aligned/top-5-questions-about-ela-scaffolding-in-elementary-school/
Share with Groups	Activity 1 from the IPG PD: In this activity, participants analyze a text (<i>The Great Fire</i>) for qualitative complexity, quantitative complexity, and reader (student) considerations.	http://achievethecore.org/page/1082/ela-literacy-instructional-practice-guide-coaching-tool
Try in the Classroom	Close Reading Model Lessons: These close reading lessons focus on rich text, high-quality text-dependent questions, and aligned culminating writing assignments.	http://achievethecore.org/category/411/ela-literacy-lessons?filter_cat=700&sort=name
	Mini-Assessments: These mini-assessments illustrate the Shifts required by the Common Core and represent the demands of all college and career readiness standards. They each include grade-appropriate complex texts and high-quality, text-dependent questions.	http://achievethecore.org/category/415/ela-literacy-assessments

WORKING WITH IMPERFECT MATERIALS

PURPOSE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
Build Knowledge	Understanding and Using Imperfect Curricular Resources (2016 Aug Webinar): The lack of aligned instructional materials is a consistent struggle for teachers implementing college- and career-ready standards. Although more closely aligned materials are becoming available, many teachers are working with imperfect materials. This webinar explores resources to support your work when your curricular resources are not as aligned as you are!	http://achievethecore.org/page/2883/understanding-and-using-imperfect-curricular-resources-2016-august-webinar
	Aligned < Improve Your Materials: This section of <i>Aligned</i> is dedicated to supplementing and adapting ELA/literacy materials to improve alignment to college- and career-ready standards. [You can find a PD bundle of <i>Aligned</i> posts on this topic on Pinterest: https://www.pinterest.com/achievethecore/adaptation-resources/]	http://achievethecore.org/aligned/category/improve-your-materials/?tag=ela-literacy
Share with Groups	Basal Alignment Project: The Basal Alignment Project provides teacher-developed Common Core-aligned lessons for basal reading series in grades 3-5. These lessons can be used immediately in the classroom. The session is designed to take two days; however, you can break it up into smaller modules, as needed. [Note: There are also PD modules available for the Read Aloud Project for K-2 and Anthology Alignment Project for 6-12.]	http://achievethecore.org/page/1109/basal-alignment-project
	Book Basket Project: This resource kit includes all the materials you need to start a Book Basket Project in your school: instructions, professional development content, sample text sets, and promotional handouts. [Intro to Book Baskets: http://achievethecore.org/aligned/designing-classroom-libraries-that-build-knowledge-vocabulary-and-engagement/]	http://achievethecore.org/page/3081/book-basket-project
	Journeys (2014) Materials Adaptation Project: The Materials Adaptation Project brought teams of educators together to design easy-to-implement changes to improve the standards alignment of the <i>Journeys</i> 2014 edition. These recommendations help <i>Journeys</i> users improve the effectiveness of their basal by setting aside less effective portions of the basal and devoting more attention to high-value texts and activities. These guidance documents are available for districts to use in planning and professional development settings as they work to align their instruction to college- and career-ready standards.	http://achievethecore.org/page/2881/journeys-2014-materials-adaptation-project
Try in the Classroom	Basal Alignment Project: For basal readers developed prior to the CCSS, these replacement lessons have been developed with an emphasis on key aspects of the Common Core, including quality sequenced text-dependent questions, improved integrated writing tasks, and a focus on academic vocabulary. [Note: There are also PD modules available for the Read Aloud Project for K-2 and Anthology Alignment Project for 6-12.]	http://achievethecore.org/category/411/ela-literacy-lessons?filter_cat=696&sort=name
	Academic Word Finder: Academic vocabulary (tier 2) words are often vital to comprehension, reappear in many texts, and frequently are part of a word family or semantic network. The Academic Word Finder produces a list of the high-value, tier 2 vocabulary in any text. [This <i>Aligned</i> post gives a brief introduction to this tool: http://achievethecore.org/aligned/including-tier-2-vocabulary-instruction-in-curricular-materials/]	http://achievethecore.org/page/1027/academic-word-finder

INTEGRATING THE STANDARDS INTO YOUR PLC

PURPOSE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
Build Knowledge	Building a Deeper Understanding of the ELA Standards in PLCs (2016 October Webinar): Take your PLC to the next level by incorporating a study of the ELA standards along with planning conversations. When teachers have a deep understanding of the standards, instruction improves and students achieve!	http://achievethecore.org/page/2921/building-a-deeper-understanding-of-the-ela-standards-in-plcs-2016-october-webinar
	Aligned > What Really Counts When We Teach: This <i>Aligned</i> blog post talks about the importance of discipline-specific feedback for teachers.	http://achievethecore.org/aligned/what-really-counts-when-we-teach/
	Essential Elements of ELA Materials and Instruction: An assortment of posts from the <i>Aligned</i> blog featuring ideas for focusing instruction and materials.	https://www.pinterest.com/achievethecore/essential-elements-of-ela-materials-and-instruction/
	ELA/Literacy Instructional Practice Guide: Coaching Tool: This module focuses on using the IPG to build understanding and experience with Common Core-aligned instruction. Within the module, there are activities and discussions based on the Core Actions that will prepare participants to use the IPG. This may be a helpful prerequisite to using the Toolkit with a group.	http://achievethecore.org/page/1082/ela-literacy-instructional-practice-guide-coaching-tool
Share with Groups	Common Core Knowledge and Practice Survey: This is a tool for educators to reflect on their instructional practice and understanding of the CCSS. Designed for use in a PLC setting within a school, the survey is meant to spark conversation, identify areas for growth, and offer concrete ways for teams of teachers to continue to align their practice to the Shifts.	http://achievethecore.org/page/1104/common-core-knowledge-and-practice-survey
	Instructional Practice Toolkit: This professional learning module supports understanding of planning and instruction aligned to college and career readiness standards for ELA/literacy through the observation of a lesson and analysis of a lesson plan and student work samples.	http://achievethecore.org/category/1193/instructional-practice-toolkit-and-classroom-videos
	In Common: Hundreds of K–12 annotated student writing samples illustrate the integration of content understanding and writing in the three types of writing expected by the CCSS: argument/opinion writing, informative/explanatory writing, and narrative writing. This bank of student work will provide a foundation for analysis and discussions that lead to a deep and nuanced understanding of the Common Core Writing Standards.	http://achievethecore.org/category/330/student-writing-samples
Try in the Classroom	Close Reading Model Lessons: These close reading lessons focus on rich text, high-quality text-dependent questions, and aligned culminating writing assignments.	http://achievethecore.org/category/411/ela-literacy-lessons?filter_cat=700&sort=name
	Mini-Assessments: These mini-assessments illustrate the Shifts required by the Common Core and represent the demands of all college and career readiness standards. They each include grade-appropriate complex texts and high-quality, text-dependent questions.	http://achievethecore.org/category/415/ela-literacy-assessments
	Basal Alignment Project: For basal readers developed prior to the CCSS, these replacement lessons emphasize key aspects of the Common Core, including quality sequenced text-dependent questions, improved integrated writing tasks, and a focus on academic vocabulary. [Note: There are also PD modules available for the Read Aloud Project for K-2 and Anthology Alignment Project for 6–12.]	http://achievethecore.org/category/411/ela-literacy-lessons?filter_cat=696&sort=name