

# Common Core Learning Standards:



- The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects are a broad-based effort to create the next generation of K-12 standards to ensure that all students are college and career ready in literacy no later than the end of high school.
- *The Standards are:*
  - research and evidence-based
  - aligned with college and work expectations
  - rigorous
  - internationally benchmarked

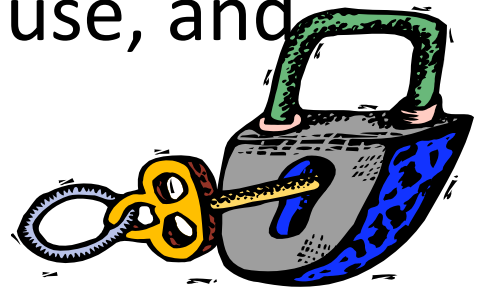
# College and Career Readiness Expectations

Students who are college and career ready in Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, and Language exhibit these capabilities:

- They demonstrate independence
- They build strong content knowledge
- They respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline
- They comprehend as well as critique
- They value evidence
- They use technology and digital media strategically and capably.
- They come to understand other perspectives and cultures

# Key Features of the Standards

- **READING:** Text complexity and growth of comprehension
- **WRITING:** Text types, responding to reading and research
- **SPEAKING AND LISTENING:** Flexible communication and collaboration
- **LANGUAGE:** Conventions, effective use, and vocabulary





## *Reading*

- One of the key requirements of the Common Core Learning Standards for Reading is that all students must be able to comprehend texts of steadily increasing complexity as they progress through school.
- By the time they complete the core, students must be able to read and comprehend independently and proficiently the kinds of complex texts commonly found in college and careers.

# *Writing*

The key requirements of the Common Core Learning Standards for Writing is to expect students to write to **inform and argue** with **evidence, supporting claims** and **demystifying counterclaims** in a *logical, detailed analytical piece*.

# Why Text Complexity Matters

- K-12 reading texts have actually trended downward in difficulty in the last half century.
- A high school graduate who is a poor reader is a postsecondary student who must struggle mightily to succeed.
- Being able to read complex text independently and proficiently is essential for high achievement in college and the workplace and important in numerous life tasks.

# Moreover

- Current trends suggest that if students cannot read challenging texts with understanding—if they have not developed the skill, concentration, and stamina to read such texts—they will read less in general.

