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English Language Arts Resources

By now you are settled in, know all of your students' names and are already prepping those students for success on the NYS ELA assessment. You are accessing the NYS ELA 3-8 2006 results that are in the Nassau BOCES Data Warehouse and in nySTART, and are using various reports to identify your students' strengths and target their growth areas. Differentiating instruction and targeting ELA performance indicators in your instruction is one way to meet the varying needs of all of your students.

Nassau BOCES Professional Learning is offering an innovative combination of workshops and an in-district peer coaching model entitled, "Differentiation in Action Collegial Network: ELA" being presented by Judy Dodge, author of the Scholastic Press book, *Differentiation in Action*. Engage in a three-day workshop to develop a plan for staff development, and then implement that plan with the help of in-district coaching. Other workshops that will help you guide your students to ELA success are:



- ◆ Targeting Sub-Skill Gaps on the New York State ELA Assessment (Grades 3-4 & 5-8)
- ◆ Designing ELA Parallel Local Assessments
- ◆ The Classroom as a Writer's Workshop
- ◆ Strategic Reading in the Content Areas

For more information and to register on-line for these workshops: www.nassauboces.org/cit/webreg.htm

Other ELA related resources in this issue are links to sample NYS ELA assessments and Marco Polo lesson plans which will help you round out your ELA toolkit for success.

For more information on any of CIT's programs, including up-to-date education news, the latest on NCLB, special reports, and much more, visit the Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Web site at:

www.nassauboces.org/cit

Marco Polo Lessons for ELA Resources

Reading Lesson Plans

Navigate to: www.nyiteez.org/MarcoPoloNY/

On the lower right of that page, click on ELA. That will take you to www.nyiteez.org/MarcoPoloNY/NYSS_ELA.php On the right, click on the grade you teach. Scroll all the way to the very bottom, and click on *Reading*. That will take you to lesson plans organized by Standard and Performance Indicator.

Alignment Pages

Here you will find over twenty-three hundred MarcoPolo lessons matched to New York State Learning Standards performance indicators and competencies where applicable. Alignments reflect the revisions of the New York State Learning Standards in English Language Arts. www.nyiteez.org/MarcoPoloNY/alignment.php

Writing Lesson Plans

MarcoPolo offers 156 writing lesson plans on all grade levels. Click on subject area: ELA. Click on your grade level preferences. In the field entitled, "Search the NYS Learning Standards and aligned lessons by keywords," type: writing.

www.nyiteez.org/MarcoPoloNY/ProgramSearchForm.php

Speaking and Listening Lesson Plans

MarcoPolo offers 73 speaking and listening lesson plans on all grade levels. Click on subject area: ELA. Click on your grade level preferences. In the field entitled, Search the NYS Learning Standards and aligned lessons by keywords, type: speaking and listening. www.nyiteez.org/MarcoPoloNY/ProgramSearchForm.php.

ELA Resources

Sample ELA 3-8 Assessments

For your grade level, click on the following from the site below:

- ◆ Book 1 PDF
- ◆ Book 2 PDF
- ◆ Book 3 for the higher grade levels
- ◆ Listening Selection PDF

www.emsc.nysed.gov/3-8/ela-sample/home.htm

ELA NYS Academic Standards

Navigate to: <http://eservices.nysed.gov/vls/welcome.do>

Click on the ELA tab to locate Standards.

ELA Core Curriculum

NYS ELA Core Curriculum available on:

www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/ela.html

School Library Program

Reading a Web site

An information literate student understands and uses his skills to read a website. This includes checking the following:

- ◆ Does the author have expertise about the topic?
- ◆ Is there a bias to the information, a slanted point of view or selected information to make a point?
- ◆ How current is the information, when was it last updated?
- ◆ How accurate is the information?
- ◆ Is the information relevant to the research question?

All of this can be summed by simply explaining, in a sentence or two, why the information from the website was selected.

Many of the web sites on the Internet are accurate and useful, but there are also some that are not appropriate. Encourage students to evaluate each selection. Another option is the online databases of the web. The school librarian is able to collaborate with classroom teachers to develop assignments that will challenge the students to develop their higher order thinking skills at the same time as reading the web sites.

Check out our CIT Response back issues:

www.nassauboces.org/cit/CIT_Response

Past Issues Include:

- ◆ Internet Safety ◆ LOTE & ELL
- ◆ The Arts ◆ NYSESLAT
- ◆ Character Education
- ◆ Science & Math

and don't miss the Data & Assessment issue in November!

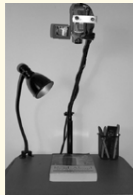
Tech Toys

The SanDisk Cruzer Freedom is a unique USB flash drive designed for students to safely carry personal files on the go. Powered by SanDisk's FlashCPT technology, this drive becomes a "digital backpack." SanDisk's proprietary software allows easy and secure downloads of copyrighted content including textbooks, novels, study guides, educational software, and much more.



[www.sandisk.com/Products/Catalog\(1120\)-SanDisk_Cruzer_Freedom_USB_Flash_Drive.aspx](http://www.sandisk.com/Products/Catalog(1120)-SanDisk_Cruzer_Freedom_USB_Flash_Drive.aspx)

Lightsmith Video Platform The platform utilizes a goose-neck arm with a reversible camera mount to hold a compact camcorder (sold separately) in position as a document camera.



Simply mount the camcorder, connect it to a projector or TV with an A/V cable, and plug in the power cord. Just like that, you have a document camera. The platform also includes cable clamps, an adjustable fluorescent light, and a pen organizer.

www.lightsmithimager.com

Mobilepresenter® BT is a lightweight portable presentation device that replaces a mouse and gives the user remote control of a connected computer system. The Mobilepresenter® BT communicates with the computer through a wireless Bluetooth interface that plugs into any USB port on the computer. It uses a standard data projector to project all program images onto a wall, a screen, or an interactive whiteboard. All mouse functions are transferred to the pen, enabling the presenter or teacher to roam freely while navigating the computer. Unique softkeys located across the top of the tablet allow instant access to applications, multimedia controls, and various captivating Presentation Tools, such as Annotation Pens, Spotlight, Reveal and a Virtual Whiteboard for note taking. Now you can enjoy a higher level of interaction with your audience while delivering exciting presentations. The Mobilepresenter® BT is a great facilitator to any presentation or lesson.



www.numonics.com/PDFs/MPBT.pdf

High School Reform

Amid mounting national concern over the state of America's high schools, more than 50 educational organizations, districts, and schools across the country have joined together to create www.standup.org

Policymakers, educators, community leaders, and members of the private sector have enlisted in a nationwide effort to better prepare high school graduates for the demands of the 21st century. www.ncrel.org/policy/feature/hsreform.htm

Improving high school students' graduation rates and academic achievement is a national concern. NCER created the education research program on High School Reform to support research on approaches, programs, and practices that might enhance the potential of at-risk students to complete high school with the skills necessary for success in college or the workplace.

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncer/projects/hsreform/hsreform.asp>

Scaffolding Comprehension Strategies using Graphic Organizers

ReadWriteThink:

www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=95

Graphic Organizers for ELA applications—All grades:
www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/

Grade 11-12 Graphic Organizer, Compare and Contrast available on www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/students/learning/lr1grorg.htm

FYI

United streaming users can access this site (streaming only!) through October 31, 2006. After that date, the rights expire and all copies of downloaded materials must be deleted.

www.unitedstreaming.com/

Web Sites

Writing Skills—Fact Monster

Grades 5–12

Help for writing essays, research papers, book reports and biographies; information and tips for spelling, grammar and sentence structure.

www.factmonster.com/homework/writingskills1.html

Student Writing Models

Grades 1–12

Samples of writing include: personal, subject, persuasive, creative, research and academic.

www.thewritesource.com/models.htm

Creative Writing

Grades 1–6

Ideas for creative writing activities.

www.teachingideas.co.uk/english/creative.htm

Read–Write–Think

Grades K–12

Partner site to MarcoPolo, this site provides access to lessons, web resources and student materials.

www.readwritethink.org/

English Exercises Online

Grades 1–12

Samples of writing include: personal, subject, persuasive, creative, research and academic.

www.edu.ge.ch/ctpic/prospective/projets/anglais/exercises/welcome.html

How to Write a Story

Grades 1–12

Tips on how to write a story from introduction to resolution

www.brucehale.com/howto.htm

The Grammar Gorillas

Grades 1–6

Interactive site for identifying nouns and verbs for beginners and all parts of speech for advanced learners.

www.funbrain.com/funbrain/grammar/

Spotlight

Workshop: Writing your AP Syllabus for College Board Audit

The AP Course Audit was created at the request of secondary school and college members of the College Board who sought a means for the College Board to provide teachers and administrators with clear guidelines on curricular and resource requirements that must be in place for AP courses; and help colleges and universities better interpret secondary school courses marked “AP” on students’ transcripts.

All schools wishing to label a course “AP” in the 2007-08 school year must complete and return the subject-specific AP Course Audit form (available January 2007 through the AP Course Audit Web site), along with the course syllabus, for each teacher of that AP course. Within two months of submitting AP Course Audit materials, schools will receive authorization for qualifying courses to use the “AP” designation on student transcripts. Each fall, beginning November 2007, colleges and universities will receive a ledger of schools that lists the courses authorized to use the “AP” designation at each school. After participating in

the initial AP Course Audit, schools will not have to submit AP Course Audit materials in following years unless the teacher has changed, the school offers a new AP course, or the curricular and resource requirements for a course undergo significant revision.

In light of this new requirement, Nassau BOCES Professional Learning program has designed a two-day workshop that will assist teachers of AP courses with preparing a syllabus for the AP audit. Teachers will prepare a week by week or day to day plan of instruction for their course. This plan will include what will be taught and the schedule of assignments and assessments. The plan will be prepared using narrative and table formats.

Dates: November 30 & December 15, 2006

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Nassau BOCES Administrative Center–Room 1D

Facilitator: Dr. Elaine Zseller

Register: www.nassauboces.org/cit/webreg/htm