

# SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Hello, Secondary ELA Colleagues!

As 2023 wraps, I hope you take a moment of reflection on your wins and losses through writing or talking with a friend or colleague. 2024 holds several opportunities for personal and professional reflection and growth -- especially the secondary ELA webinars, and the 30 Days of Writing challenge. I wish you have a restful break. See you in the new year!

Naomi

## I'M CURRENTLY ENJOYING:

- *Writing Down the Bones* by Natalie Goldberg
- *The Guilded Age* on Max



## PUBLIC COMMENT REQUESTED ON MYTHOLOGY STANDARDS

The Mythology Supplemental Standards have been created to provide Utah educators with guidance on the specific knowledge and skills for students to master when enrolled in a Mythology course. These standards supplement the P-12 Utah English Language Arts Standards. USBE staff is seeking 30-day public feedback to gather stakeholder input to guide finalizing these supplemental standards.

The 30-day feedback window opens December 13, 2023 and closes January 12, 2024. Please provide your feedback prior to the closing date.

## [SUBMIT FEEDBACK](#)

## P-12 ELA STANDARDS RESOURCES & REMINDERS

Link to resource folder which includes:

- [Best Practices in Secondary ELA - NEW RESOURCE](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Reading Strand Standards Breakdown](#)
- [Speech Progression Chart](#)
- [Slides](#) from summer professional learning
- Resources shared by other districts (e.g., vertical alignment)
- More to come...Grammar and Conventions List, Core Guides, ACT Crosswalk



**YAY!**



# SECONDARY ELA PROFESSIONAL LEARNING WEBINAR SERIES

Monthly, 4:00 - 5:00pm

- Support students' reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking through evidence-based instructional practices.
- Refine and deepen your implementation of the new Utah ELA Standards.

**100%  
ONLINE**

Join live or view the recordings when your schedule allows!

Option to earn 0.5 USBE credits

**REGISTER NOW**



**ACCESS PREVIOUS  
WEBINARS**

## WINTER & SPRING PRESENTER LINE-UP



JANUARY 17, 2024

**Developing Deep Knowledge with Complex Texts and Tasks**

**Dr. Naomi Watkins**  
Secondary ELA Specialist,  
USBE



FEBRUARY 22, 2024

**Let's Talk About the Robot in the Room: AI & Writing**

**Matt Winters**  
Senior Technology  
Trainer, UEN



MARCH 13, 2024

**Explicitly Teaching Listening Skills**

**Dr. Katie Alford**  
Assistant Professor of  
Education, McKendree  
University



APRIL 18, 2024

**Multimodal Writing**

**Dr. Amber Jensen**  
Assistant Professor of  
English, BYU, & Director  
of Central Utah Writing  
Project

**May's Webinar is TBD**

Questions? [naomi.watkins@schools.utah.gov](mailto:naomi.watkins@schools.utah.gov)

30 Days of

# WRITING

+++  
**COMMUNITY**

for Utah  
educators

**JAN 8  
- FEB 6**

- daily emailed invitations
- low-stakes, no pressure
- rekindle love for writing

“When teachers write, we  
become partners with a  
community of writers, full  
participants in our classroom.”

- Tim Gillespie

**MORE INFO**



Questions?

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Utah State  
Board of  
Education

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## 2023–2024 STATE SECONDARY ELA DIRECTOR MEETINGS MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

All held virtually from 1–3pm

- Tuesday, January 23
- Tuesday, March 19

message [brenda.mcmurtrey@schools.  
utah.gov](mailto:brenda.mcmurtrey@schools.utah.gov) for an invite



In partnership with [Utah Education Network](#) and [Utah Film Center](#), the 2024 Tumbleweeds Film Festival for Kids Film Competition is now OPEN to all Utah students grades K–8! If you're a parent or educator of a talented young filmmaker, this is the perfect opportunity for them to shine!

[MORE INFO](#)

## UCTE CONFERENCE



We are beyond excited to announce that our 2024 Utah Council of Teachers of English (UCTE) Conference Registration is NOW OPEN!

Tickets can be purchased through our Eventbrite page at [this link](#), where you can also find additional information about the conference.

When: Friday, February 2nd  
Where: Jordan Commons Megaplex in Sandy, UT  
Time: 7:30am–3:00pm

Make sure you don't miss any updates! Follow us on Instagram at [@uctegram](#) or on Facebook at Utah Council of Teachers of English.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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\*\*Please note: LEAs have the duty to select instructional materials that best correlate to the core standards for Utah public schools and graduation requirements. (UCA 53G-4-402(1(a))). Posting of these resources by USBE staff curriculum content specialists does not imply the resources have received official endorsement of the State Board. Educators are responsible to ensure use of these materials complies with LEA policies and directives.

# Empowering Critical Thinkers: Strategies for Navigating News and Media

SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH  
FROM 4-5 P.M. MST

For K-12 Educators, all content areas

Join us for a free  
eight-part webinar series  
centered on news and  
media literacy skills.



WEBINAR SERIES

## Empowering Critical Thinkers: Strategies for Navigating News and Media

The series is brought to you by content specialists at the Utah State Board of Education and the News Literacy Project.

Each webinar is 45 minutes long and will include resources, guidance and frameworks from USBE, as well as learning from the News Literacy Project. Webinars will be followed by a 15-minute Q&A with a Utah educator who has been using the resources.



**Utah State Board of Education**

### About NLP

The News Literacy Project, a nonpartisan education nonprofit, is building a national movement to advance the practice of news literacy throughout American society, creating better informed, more engaged and more empowered individuals – and ultimately a stronger democracy.



NLP's public and educator resources are completely free.



The Central Utah Writing Project invites teachers of all subjects and grade levels to apply for participation at the annual

# SUMMER INSTITUTE



Join our family of teacher leaders and writers in a rich and rewarding personal and professional development experience for three weeks this summer!



## APPLY HERE

- Collaborate with K-16 teachers
- Share and expand teaching and writing strategies
- Work on your own personal and professional writing in writing groups
- Earn 6 BYU credits (optional)

## 2024 DATES

### Pre-Institute Events

March TBD | 4:30 - 8:30 pm

April 27 | 8:30-3:30 pm

### Summer Institute

8:30 am - 3:30 pm daily

June 10 - June 13

June 17 - June 21

\*no class June 19\*

June 24 - June 27

[utahteacherswrite.org](http://utahteacherswrite.org)

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**BETTER DAYS**  
*utahwomenshistory.org*



*field trip*

Join Better Days on **February 13, 2024** as we commemorate Utah trailblazers and our First To Vote history! The event includes hands-on learning activities, storytelling, visits from state leaders, prizes, and much more!

In past years, we've reached the maximum number of students that the State Capitol can accommodate. We'll confirm registrations on a first come, first served basis. **REGISTER.**

You can apply for bus funding from the Capitol Preservation Board [here](#).

Teach your students  
**STORIES OF WOMEN**  
*who shaped Utah's history.*

Watch for our new curriculum on Utah women in WWI and WWII coming later this fall! In the meantime, download our [Utah Women's History](#) curriculum on Canvas, check out free educator resources on [utahwomenshistory.org](#), or use our Martha Hughes Cannon [digital toolkit](#) to celebrate the upcoming installation of her statue in the U.S. Capitol (date still TBD).



ART CONTEST FOR GRADES 4 – 12

CASH & OTHER PRIZES

SUBMIT BY JAN. 22, 2024

# STUDENT ART CONTEST

Utah women make history, but they're often missing from our classrooms. We need your help to change that!

**Create an original piece of art about a woman in Utah history who made a difference in your community.**

- Compose an artist statement (written or video) explaining the connection between your art and the woman you featured.
- Winners in each age category (grades 4-6, 7-8, 9-12) will receive cash awards and prizes from local Utah businesses!
- Winning artwork will be displayed at the Utah State Capitol for the Utah Women Making History student event on February 13, 2024.

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**DEADLINE: JANUARY 22, 2024**

Details and submission link:

**Click Here!**

Questions? Email us at:

[info@betterdays2020.org](mailto:info@betterdays2020.org)

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[MORE INFO](#)



Sponsored by National Endowment for the Arts, The Poetry Foundation, and Utah Arts & Museums Arts Education Program, Poetry Out Loud encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition for high school students across the country. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life.

## POETRY OURSELVES

[MORE INFO](#)



Poetry Ourselves is our original poetry writing competition open to Utah's 9th-12th graders.

A student may submit either one or two original poems of any format - OR - up to a maximum of ten original haiku. Each poem must be 25 lines or less. Poems will be judged anonymously based on overall effectiveness, and judges may give weight to poems that address current issues facing Utah students or the state as a whole. New this year, we will have judges with expertise in Spanish language poetry, and entries may be submitted in English or in Spanish. Cash prizes will be awarded to winners in each language.



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## ARTSRAGEOUS ONLINE

ARTrageous Online! supports core curriculum learning for 7-12th grade students by introducing students to passionate and accomplished "thought leaders" in our community. They are artists, scientists, authors, activists, mathematicians, engineers, teachers, and creatives who have ideas and experience worth sharing. Vibrant video presentations, activities, and lesson plans support arts integration in English, Science, and Social Studies.



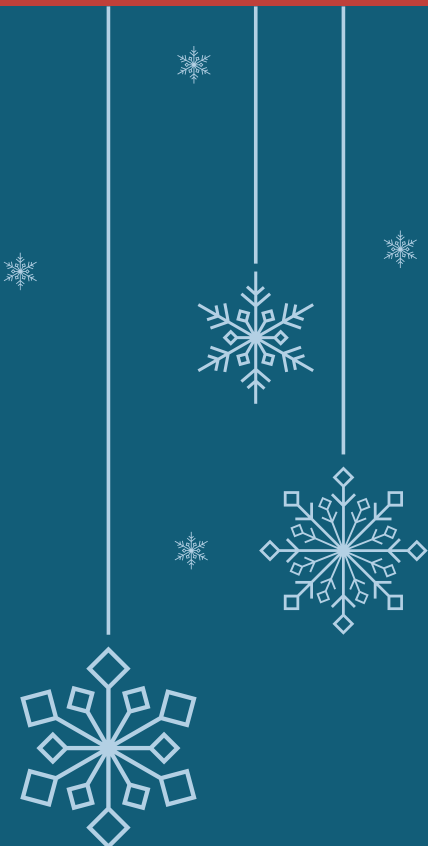
NPR is inviting students around the country to create a podcast, then — with the help of a teacher — compete for a chance to win our grand prize and have your work featured on NPR.

Be sure to check out the [official rules](#), [submission guidelines](#) and more below before sending in your work. Submissions are due April 2024.



myShakespeare provides media-rich, full-text editions of Shakespeare's plays for free. Some key features:

- Interviews with the characters illuminate themes and ignite discussion
- Performances of key scenes bring Shakespeare's language to life
- Animated videos explore the plays and their contexts
- Complete audio recordings emphasize clarity and comprehension.



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## EVIDENCE-BASED SECONDARY LITERACY PRACTICES

These 3 reports from the What Works Clearinghouse outline and detail recommendations based on empirical evidence, so yes, we do have a "Science of Reading" in the secondary space:

- [Improving Adolescent Literacy: Effective Classroom & Intervention Practices](#)
- [Providing Reading Interventions for Students in Grades 4-9](#)
- [Teaching Secondary Students to Write Effectively](#)



The [Book Love Foundation](#) seeks teachers who demonstrate a passion for promoting a hunger for books. These teachers recognize the diversity of every class of readers, and they challenge each student to build an independent reading life of increasing depth and joy. Teachers who apply for a Book Love Foundation grant must demonstrate that they are already committed to the support of readers through current classroom practices such as maintaining access to a range of books, conferring regularly and purposefully to understand and support students' changing needs, and sharing their own contagious passion for reading inside and outside of their classroom. Read about the requirements for a grant, and then apply for either a classroom library or book clubs.

