

SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER

April 2023

Hello, Secondary ELA Colleagues!

A little over a year ago, I started a monthly poetry club with friends where we read and discuss a contemporary poetry collection written by a poet from a historically marginalized community. Many of these collections have challenged us as readers; they have also reminded me of poetry's power to cause us to pause and notice a beautiful line of words or phrases. So often, we comment, "I love this particular line!" We're in the middle of National Poetry Month right now, so you still have an opportunity to read a few lines of beautifully written words.

Naomi

I'M CURRENTLY ENJOYING:

- *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest* by Suzanne Simard
- *The Reluctant Traveler* on Apple TV+



ELA STANDARDS UPDATE

Late Thursday night, the Utah State Board of Education voted to approve the P-12 ELA Standards. Once the draft standards have been put into their final (pretty) version, we will share it out widely, but wanted to get the approved version to you as I know many are planning for next school year now.

As far as the timeline, expectations are that educators will be teaching these new standards next school year (23-24) and state testing on these new standards will begin during the 24-25 school year. The assessment team will be working with committees to begin this work soon.

The final step in the process is for USBE staff to draft the implementation plan for these standards. That plan will then go to the Board in May. We will be working to prepare professional learning, core guides, etc. for these new standards. We will continue to message out resources as they come.

Additionally, the Standards and Assessment Committee continues to work on approving supplemental ELA standards for the following courses: 1) Humanities, 2) Creative Writing/Literary Magazine, and 3) Professional & Technical Communication. These standards first appeared on the committee's March agenda, and hopefully will be finalized during another special committee meeting on Tuesday, April 25 from 12-8pm. This meeting will be held virtually.



REPEAT OFFERING
LET'S TALK!
**CREATING CONDITIONS FOR CIVIL
DIALOGUE IN OUR SCHOOLS**

Join colleagues across all academic disciplines in an engaging and outcomes-based professional learning experience. Learn and practice strategies to foster productive civil dialogue in our classrooms and school communities. This learning model will allow you to share and teach these strategies to your colleagues.

SELECT ONE HALF-DAY SESSION

Thursday, June 15
Granite School District
8:00am - 11:30am
OR
12:30 - 4:00pm

REGISTER



LET'S TALK!

CREATING CONDITIONS FOR CIVIL DIALOGUE IN OUR SCHOOLS

OUR FACILITATOR



MARY ELLEN DANEELS

Mary Ellen Daneels is a National Board Certified teacher who taught at West Chicago Community High School for 27 years. She serves as the Director of the Illinois Civics Hub and Illinois Democracy School Network, leading efforts to support civic learning across disciplines.

She has been recognized as the Law-related Educator of the Year from the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Chicago, Teacher of the Year by the 19th District of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and American Civic Education Teacher from the Center for Civic Education and the Illinois Education Association Teacher of the Year.



THE CONFIDENCE TO WRITE

A CUWP WORKSHOP FOR K-12 TEACHERS

INSTRUCTORS: MELISSA HEATON, MAPLETON JH & CRAIG JEPPSON, WASATCH HS

A three-credit, one-week intensive course where teachers of all grade levels and subject areas will learn research-driven strategies to cultivate students' ability to write and think successfully.

Participants will be guided through the writing process, engage critically with the professional literature, and develop dynamic lesson plans. This course will emphasize nurturing the "writer-within" each participant.

Tuition includes a copy of "The Confidence to Write: A Guide for Overcoming Fear and Developing Identity as a Writer" (2022) by Liz Prather and two provided meals during the workshop



JUNE 12-16
8AM-4:30PM
BYU CAMPUS

**\$350 REGULAR
ENROLLMENT
45 POINTS**

**\$500 UNIVERSITY
ENROLLMENT
3 SUU CREDITS**

REGISTER BY MAY 6

USE THE LINK BELOW TO REGISTER BY CREDIT CARD:
[HTTPS://COMMERCE.CASHNET.COM/WEBCUWP](https://commerce.cashnet.com/webcuwp)



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Educator Spotlight

Robert Banks
Delta High School
Millard School District



- ✓ 37 years in education -- currently teaching 11 & 12th grade English
- ✓ Favorite Book: *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

For the past 32 summers, he has worked for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine as a PPQ technician. This job allows him to travel all over Southern Utah and survey grasshoppers. Mr. Banks has been an elected city councilman for Delta City since 2004. He also enjoys travelling with family, having cookouts, camping, reading, and spending time with family and friends on social occasions.

A RECENT INSPIRING TEACHING MOMENT

One of his most recent teaching experiences is teaching the English 2010 CE class for Utah Tech University this year. This is a new class for him, and he has the absolute best students in the two classes that he is teaching for it. They just completed a ten-page, ten resources, argumentative essay, and they just all nailed it very well. His greatest joys as a teacher is to see his students succeed, and they did so with this essay.



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2023-2024 STATE SECONDARY ELA DIRECTOR MEETINGS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

All held virtually from 1-3pm

- Tuesday, September 13
- Tuesday, November 14
- Tuesday, January 23
- Tuesday, March 19

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



NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

- [Poetry Unbound](#)
- [30 Ways to Celebrate National Poetry Month](#)
- [Poetry Foundation](#)
- [NaPoWriMo](#)
- [Poetry Resources from NCTE](#)
- [Build Your Stack: Poetic Possibilities](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Utah Rural Schools Association

2023 CONFERENCE JULY 12-14 IN PRICE

Registration is open.

The conference provides hands on and break-out sessions that will focus on insights and interventions with strategies to close any learning loss associated with the effects of COVID-19. There will be sessions focused on strengthening mental and behavioral health supports, social and emotional supports, grading practices, literacy best practices, strengthened the guaranteed curriculum at each school, and developing a culture of investment.

PENS & PIXEL: GENERATIVE AI IN EDUCATION

This one-day free online conference sponsored by UC Irvine on July 13 will bring together leading scholars and practitioners to share and discuss perspectives on generative AI in education and educational research.

**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.

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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.



THE UTAH FUTURE OF JOURNALISM AWARDS

The Utah Future of Journalism Awards, sponsored by the Utah College Media Alliance in collaboration with the Utah Press Association, are open. This year we have added two new partners, the Utah Education Network and Amplify Utah. These partners plan to publish your students' best work to broader audiences to help their portfolios and bring attention to their accomplishments.

We are bringing back the Coverage Cup and introducing a new award: High School Journalist of the Year in three categories: writing, photo/multimedia and video/broadcast. You can find the rules and eligibility at our website here or see the attached rules.

The contest website will remain open through Friday, April 14. Get your students' best work organized and talk to your administration about covering the \$5 per entry fee. If you have awesome work that won't be published by April 14, check the rules for prepublication entries.

We will celebrate all the great work at the Futures Awards Ceremony on May 18 at the University of Utah. Put the date on your calendar! If you have any questions, email Josh Petersen, joshua.petersen@utah.edu.

myShakespeare™
Love to learn it.

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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THE NEWS LITERACY PROJECT RESOURCES

The [News Literacy Project](#), a nonpartisan national education nonprofit, provides programs and resources to help people of all ages become smart, active information consumers and equal and engaged participants in a democracy. The misinformation crisis requires a bold response, and NLP is meeting the moment by transforming its mission into a national movement to advance news literacy. Founded in 2008, NLP is the leading provider of news literacy education through its signature free e-learning platform [Checkology](#)® virtual classroom and other resources. NLP works with thousands of educators in all 50 states and more than 100 other countries.

[Checkology](#), NLP's industry leading, browser-based platform, includes nearly 20 lessons plus dozens of additional exercises and challenges that help students learn how to navigate today's challenging information landscape. NLP's [Checkology](#) lessons are aligned to Common Core literacy standards, social studies standards, NGSS, ISTE student standards and the C3 Framework. They gain the skills to identify credible information, seek out reliable sources, recognize misinformation and help stop its spread. The middle and high school cross-curricular lessons also provide an understanding of the role of the free press and the first Amendment in our democracy. [Checkology](#) features a directory of vetted journalists in the Newsroom to Classroom program who can speak with students, virtually or in-person. And its Check Center allows students to detect and debunk misinformation as they encounter it.



TUMBLEWEEDS FILM FESTIVAL FOR KIDS FIELD TRIPS & WORKSHOPS

April 22-23 at Viridian Event Center in West Jordan

This two-day festival will include interactive and enriching workshops taught by professionals in the film industry and free hands-on activities, crafts, and experiences for the whole family! This year features 20 films that bring you stories set in space, on land, and in other worlds that peek at the imagination and adventurous minds of viewers of all ages. Includes both in-person and virtual screenings.

- [Information about free field trips to the festival](#)
- [Workshops for kids on podcasting, filmmaking, animation, screenwriting, etc](#)

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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.



[NPR's Student Podcast Challenge](#) is back – for a fifth year! Beginning in January and running through April, NPR will once again be hearing from thousands of student podcasters, all competing for their grand prizes and a chance to hear their stories on NPR.

This year's Student Podcast Challenge will **open for entries on January 6, 2023 and close on April 28**. As in past years, the NPR judges will choose winners in two categories: grades five through eight and grades nine through 12. Entries must be submitted by an educator or a student leader who's 18 years old or older.



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GREAT SALT LAKE COLLABORATIVE

The Great Salt Lake is one of the dominant topics of discussion at the 2023 Legislature because the lake has shrunk to the lowest levels ever recorded — which affects our air quality, snowpack and ecosystem.

Here are potential ways you can incorporate what is happening to the lake — and what policy makers are doing about it — in your classrooms.

This website —greatsaltlakenews.org— collects all of the latest news about Great Salt Lake. There are no paywalls or advertisements. It is run by the Great Salt Lake Collaborative, which combines the resources and reach of Utah's top newsrooms that have put aside traditional competition to work together to cover Great Salt Lake.

The site includes 250 and counting articles about the lake, covering topics including agriculture, air quality, bird migration and water conservation. You can find:

- A time lapse of the lake shrinking
- A video library of lake experts talking about what is happening at the lake and potential solutions
- A handy Q/A section
- A project called "Lake Effect" that collects audio stories about the lake.

The Collaborative also has a YouTube channel with recordings of panel discussions with experts and advocates about the lake.

For more information, contact Project Manager Heather May at info@greatsaltlakenews.org



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ABOUT

StoryMaker is a free learning platform powered by PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs. It's your one-stop shop for projects, tutorials, and lesson plans connected to media making, digital journalism, and public broadcasting. Features include:

- a personalized dashboard to save your favorite resources,
- an educator directory to connect to like-minded educators and mentors, and
- a robust library chock full of activities, videos, and worksheets.

Our standards-based curriculum develops communication skills, critical thinking, and teamwork, and provides a strong foundation of storytelling skills to help students discover their place in the world.

BEGIN YOUR STORYTELLING JOURNEY

Youth media empowers students to use their voice, engage with people outside of school walls, discover new ideas and tell important stories. StoryMaker provides not only the resources, but pathways to do through a variety of tracks:

- Teach Media Literacy Skills
- Increase Civic Engagement
- Explore Science Journalism + STEM
- Experiment with Storytelling Formats
- Activate + Amplify Student Voice
- Motivate with Culturally Responsive Projects
- Start a Broadcast Curriculum

For more info visit: <https://story-maker.org/getting-started>

2022-23 PROMPTS, LESSONS, PROJECTS & CHALLENGES

SRL releases new projects, prompts, lessons and rapid responses as current events unfold. Check StoryMaker regularly as additional prompts will be published, including connections to Ken Burns' U.S. + The Holocaust and Making Black America. For more info visit: <https://story-maker.org/library>

