

SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER

November 2023

Hello, Secondary ELA Colleagues!

I know many folks wait until the new year to make resolutions and let go of the old. But for me, it's this time of year when the leaves on the trees are changing color and dropping that I contemplate what I can let go of to create more space. Sometimes it's not so much about doing more, but about streamlining and prioritizing to make space for what is best.

Naomi

I'M CURRENTLY ENJOYING:

- *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *Nyad* on Netflix



EVIDENCE-BASED GRAMMAR & LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

October's Secondary ELA Webinar focused on evidence-based grammar and language instruction. If you would like to rewatch Dr. Deborah Dean's webinar, "Besting the Grammar Beast," you can view [the recording](#).

Additional resources:

- ["Context is Everything for Effective Grammar Instruction"](#) from *Edutopia*
- ["Teaching Grammar ... or Teaching Language"](#) by Dr. Dean
- ["Why Daily Oral Language Does Not Work"](#) by Mark Pennington
- ["How \(Not\) to Teach Grammar"](#) from Literacy Partners

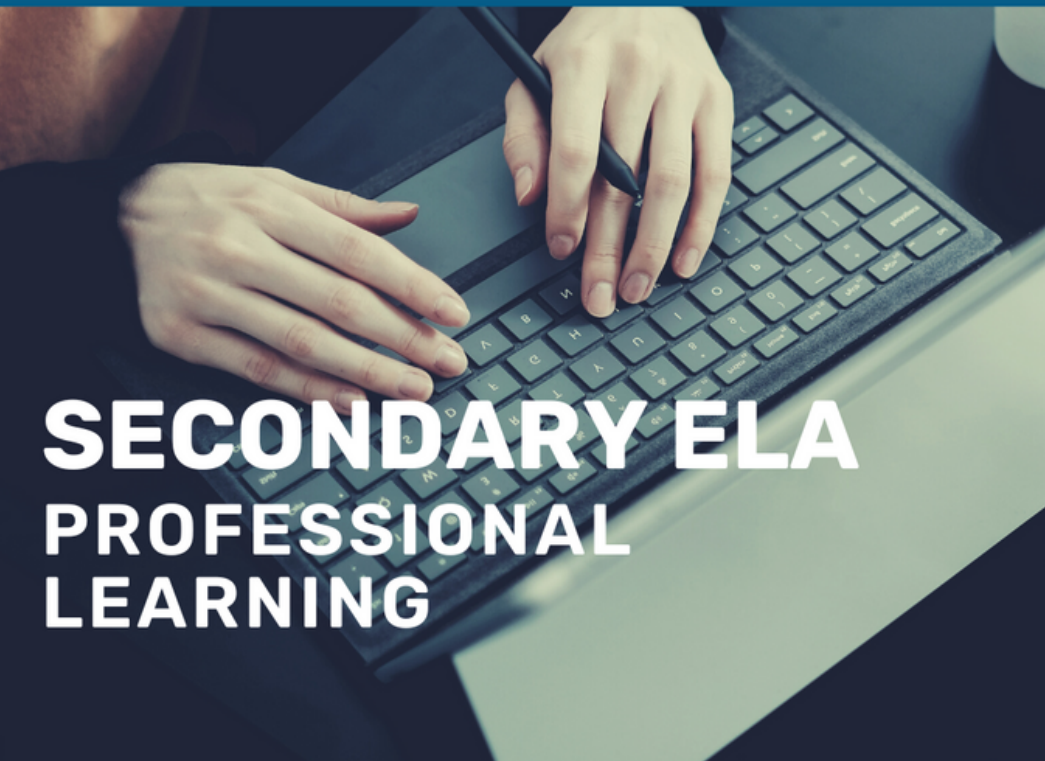
P-12 ELA STANDARDS RESOURCES & REMINDERS

Questions about assessment?

Contact megan.lopez@schools.utah.gov

[Link](#) to resource folder which includes:

- [FAQs](#)
- [Reading Strand Standards Breakdown](#)
- [Speech Progression Chart](#)
- [Slides](#) from summer professional learning
 - These slides contain additional resources such as articles, podcasts, videos, templates for standards activities, and evidence-based practices + what practices to discontinue.
- Resources shared by other districts (e.g., vertical alignment)
- More to come...Grammar and Conventions List, Core Guides, Best Practices One-Pager, ACT Crosswalk



SECONDARY ELA PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Midas Course 63313



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 & FLEXIBLE

JOIN LIVE OR VIEW THE RECORDINGS WHEN YOUR SCHEDULE ALLOWS!

OPTION TO EARN 0.5 USBE CREDIT

VIEW ALL 7 WEBINARS AND ENROLL IN THE CANVAS COURSE TO ACCESS REFLECTIONS & IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS



BEATING THE GRAMMAR BEAST

DR. DEBORAH DEAN

OCTOBER 17
4:00 - 5:00 PM



READING WITH PURPOSE: SELECTING & SEQUENCING TEXTS TO SUPPORT CRITICAL UNDERSTANDING

DR. LAUREN LIANG

NOVEMBER 13
4:00 - 5:00 PM

+ 5 more webinars
Info coming soon!



SECONDARY ELA WEBINAR



Indigenous America through Literature Learning



DECEMBER 5, 2023

04.00 PM – 05.00 PM

Indigenous representation in literature is not a new concept; however, do the books in today's classrooms accurately reflect the Native people in a contemporary setting? Using up-to-date articles and resources, we will look at how to select and share high quality literature for children and young adults, and discuss why Indigenous cultural authenticity matters in books in schools.



REGISTER NOW

DR. DONNA SABIS-BURNS
(KANIEN'KEHA:KA—MOHAWK)

SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER

November 2023

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

All held virtually from 1–3pm

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

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

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH RESOURCES

- [Educator Resources from national museums](#)
- [Resources from PBS Utah](#)
- [Native Knowledge 360 from Smithsonian](#)
- [American Indians in Children’s Literature](#)
- [National Endowment for the Humanities resources](#)



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!

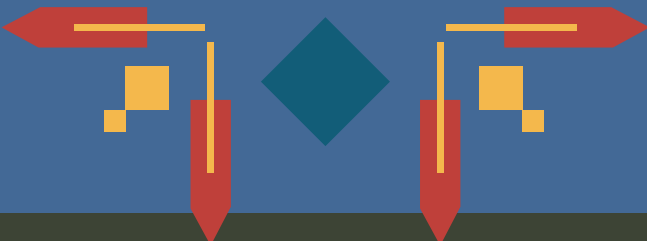
[MORE INFO](#)

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.

November



SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER

November 2023

The 6th-12th Grade Reading Brain: How It Works + Unlocking Grade-Level Success (Part 1 of 2)

 REGISTER NOW!

What does the middle and high schooler brain look like as it's learning to read? 🧠 📖 Based on those learning highways the mind builds, how can that inform our instructional strategies?

Friday, November 17th | 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. CT

Join ThinkCERA to unpack the 6th-12th grade reading mind and learn:

- 📦 A quick 101 on middle and high school reading science research
- 📦 7 ways to engage those reading highways
- 📦 How to get started with a sneak peek of resources: ThinkCERCA's Foundational Reading Course and Dr. McKnight's Engaging Learners

You'll hear from Dr. Katie McKnight, 15-year distinguished professor, dedicated teacher, and award-winning author. She is the founder of [Engaging Learners](#), an educational company built around her successful Literacy & Learning Center model. Her support for professional learning at the leadership and classroom level has resulted in unprecedented academic achievement in many struggling schools. Dr. McKnight has authored several books, including best-selling, *The Teacher's Big Book of Graphic Organizers*, winner of the 2013 Teachers' Choice Award, and *Literacy & Learning Centers for the Big Kids*, grades 4-12.



SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER

November 2023



Author Temple Grandin



photo: Kelly Duster



Wednesday, November 29, 6:00pm
Library's Viridian Event Center
8030 S 1825 W, West Jordan

Presented by Salt Lake County Library and The Kings English Bookshop

New York Times bestselling author, world-renowned scientist, and autism spokesperson Temple Grandin, Ph.D., will discuss her new book for young readers, *Different Kinds of Minds*.

Different Kinds of Minds, set to be released on November 28, celebrates and explores what it means to be a visual thinker. With her genius for demystifying science, Dr. Grandin reveals that there are more visual thinkers out there than previously believed and how kids can discover if they are a visual thinker too.

A Q&A session and book signing will follow the presentation. This event is free to attend.



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

SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER

November 2023

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.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 22, 2024

Details and submission link:

[Click Here!](#)

Questions? Email us at:

info@betterdays2020.org

SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER

November 2023



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.



We're 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 will be due April 2024.

SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER

November 2023

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.



ANNUAL NCTE CONVENTION

November 16-19 in Columbus, Ohio

The NCTE Annual Convention is the premier annual event for English language arts and literacy educators. Learn from experts and participate in various sessions on a range of topics that will inspire your teaching. Meet educators from around the country and enjoy social and cultural events, including a book fair and awards ceremony. Share your challenges and victories with a community of English language professionals who will support your work into the future. Don't miss this chance to communicate, collaborate, and create with fellow English language arts teachers and educators at the NCTE Annual Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

ANNUAL CEL CONVENTION

November 19-21 in Columbus, Ohio

The Conference on English Leadership (CEL) offers a collaborative, dynamic, discussion-based forum for literacy leaders to explore current and emerging issues. Since 1970, CEL has assisted language arts leaders in sharing mutual problems and insights, exchanging resources, seeking the advice of successful leaders, and investigating issues of greatest concern to leaders.



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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November 2023

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.

