



SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER



October 2022

Hello, Secondary ELA Colleagues!

I hope you're able to curl up with a good book or movie as we sink into cooler temps. Last night I had the opportunity to see former U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo speak and read her poetry, and it was a reminder of the importance of the humanities in helping us understand each other and our world.

**NATIONAL
HISPANIC
HERITAGE MONTH**

**HISPANIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH
NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 15**

- [Resources from national museums](#)

SECONDARY LITERACY DIRECTOR MEETINGS

- November 15, 1-3pm | virtual
- January 24, 1-3pm | virtual
- March 21, 1-3pm | virtual

message brenda.mcmurtrey@schools.utah.gov for an invite

I'M CURRENTLY ENJOYING:

- Naomi Shihab Nye's [19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East](#)
- Abbott Elementary
- Danielle Ponder's [Some of Us are Brave](#)

NCTE ANNUAL CONVENTION

Are you joining other ELA educators across the country for [NCTE's annual convention](#) in Anaheim from Nov. 17-20? If so, I'd love to see you!



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Educator Spotlight

Shanda Winget
San Juan High School
San Juan School District



- Has taught English for 10 years
- Loves to spend time with her husband & children, reading, and gardening
- Favorite Author: Gabriel García Márquez

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST REWARDING PART OF TEACHING?

The most rewarding part of teaching for me is the relationships I develop with my students. I feel so privileged to be able to watch them grow while they are in my class, and then continue to watch them grow as they go out into the world and start living their own lives.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT TEACHING ELA TO KIDS?

It's giving students the tools to decipher information, form their own thoughts, feelings, and opinions, and then helping them to develop the skills to express those thoughts, feelings, and opinions with the written and spoken word. It is truly exciting to watch students begin to develop their own ideas about the world and also be able to express them to others.

WHO/WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A TEACHER?

I had some wonderful English teachers in junior high and high school: Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Taylor, and Mr. Thompson helped me to discover my love of literature and writing, and gave me excellent examples of what educators should be.

To nominate a secondary ELA educator to highlight in the monthly newsletter, contact
brenda.mcmurtrey@schools.utah.gov



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NATIONAL DAY OF WRITING | OCT 20

To draw attention to the remarkable variety of writing Americans engage in and to help make writers from all walks of life aware of their craft, the National Council of Teachers of English has established October 20 as the National Day on Writing®. More info found [here](#).

APPLY TO THE PBS LEARNING MEDIA PILOT TESTING PROGRAM

Calling all educators! PBS LearningMedia is currently seeking ELA and Social Studies educators in grades 6-12 to pilot test educational materials created for the Ken Burns in the Classroom collection. This paid opportunity will require implementing materials in your class, providing sample work, and when possible, allowing classroom observation by a member of the PBS LearningMedia team.

[Apply Now.](#)



EVIDENCE-BASED SECONDARY LITERACY PRACTICES or "THE SCIENCE OF READING FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS"

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](#)



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STATUE OF MARTHA HUGHES CANNON HEADS TO D.C. SOON

- [Request](#) a Martha Hughes Cannon digital toolkit and celebrate the upcoming installation of her statue in the U.S. Capitol with your students!
- Download [Better Days' Utah Women's History curriculum](#) on Canvas with ELA strands & connections



UTAH WOMEN MAKING HISTORY STUDENT EVENT

Wednesday February 22, 2023
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Utah State Capitol Rotunda

As you make field trip plans for the 2022-23 school year, consider our invitation to join Better Days next February as we celebrate Utah Women Making History and commemorate Utah women's historic first votes!

RSVP [HERE](#) by October 28, 2022
Space is limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis

Funds are available to cover the cost of busing, to apply visit [here](#).

SHE STARTED IT FOR ALL OF US 2022-23 STUDENT ART CONTEST

Utah women make history, but they're often missing in our textbooks, classrooms, and public art. We need your help to change that! Students grades 4-12 are invited to submit original art portraying a Utah woman who has made a difference in their community. Share this contest with your students and consider making it a class assignment!

Better Days' annual student art contest is open for submissions through January 25, 2023.

Visit [their website](#) to access a flyer with more details and to submit artwork.



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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.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS IN WRITING & PROMISING YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS

Prompts are now available for the 2023 [Achievement Awards in Writing](#) and [Promising Young Writers](#) contests! NCTE encourages educators and administrators to share information on these school-based writing awards across the middle and secondary levels.

Here are key dates for the 2023 contests:

- November 2022: contest opens for submissions.
- February 15, 2023: submission window closes.
- May 2023: winners are announced.



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TUMBLEWEEDS KIDS FILM COMPETITION

Utah K-8 learners may [submit entries for the 2023 Tumbleweeds Kids Film Competition](#) from now through Feb 14. Prizes include free access to exclusive workshops, recognition at a red carpet event and have their shorts screened during the 2023 Tumbleweeds Film Festival.

2022 MULTICULTURAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 2022
OR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 2022

We invite you to the 2022 Multicultural Youth Leadership Summit! An event for 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students and educators.

[Register today!](#)

MEDIA LITERACY WEEK

Register for a [free toolkit](#) to power up learners' media literacy skills during #MediaLitWk, Oct. 24-28, and beyond. Share or join events and contests throughout the week.

TEACHING GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT

Research shows that teaching grammar in context has the best results. Read [this latest article](#) that features the work of BYU Professor, Debbie Dean.

Fall 2022 Civics Educator Conference Center for Constitutional Studies

BRIDGING AND BONDING

The Role of Teachers in Cultivating Citizenship

More:

uvu.edu/ccs/events

OCTOBER 27, 2022
10 AM | REGISTRATION
UVU CLARKE BUILDING (CB) 101



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ARTHUR C. BROOKS | 6 PM

UVU Center for CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES



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POETRY

OUT LOUD



JOIN THE POETRY OUT LOUD 2023 COMPETITION

This national competition encourages Utah's 9th-12th graders to engage with great poetry through memorization and performance. More than \$100K in prizes is awarded to students and schools; a \$20K award goes to the national champion. Student workshops with Utah Poet Laureate Lisa Bickmore are available.

Regions will advance one winner to the state final competition, to be held on March 8, 2023. State winners can compete at the national competition in Washington, D.C., in April 2023.

Register by January 27, 2023. More info [here](#).

FREE TICKETS FOR EDUCATORS!

Educators throughout the state can visit the immersive art experience now playing at the IDEA Space within The Leonardo Museum located in downtown Salt Lake City at Library Square. Simply follow [this link](#) and use code TeachArt22 to check out Van Gogh 360, Monet to Kandinsky, Italian Renaissance, Great Impressionists, or Monet To Kandinsky En Español. The code is good for **two complimentary admissions** through the month of October. Art Through Experience programming is open Wednesday through Sunday.

Link to ticketing [here](#).

****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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PBS
NEWS
HOUR **STUDENT**
REPORTING
LABS

STORYMAKER

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>



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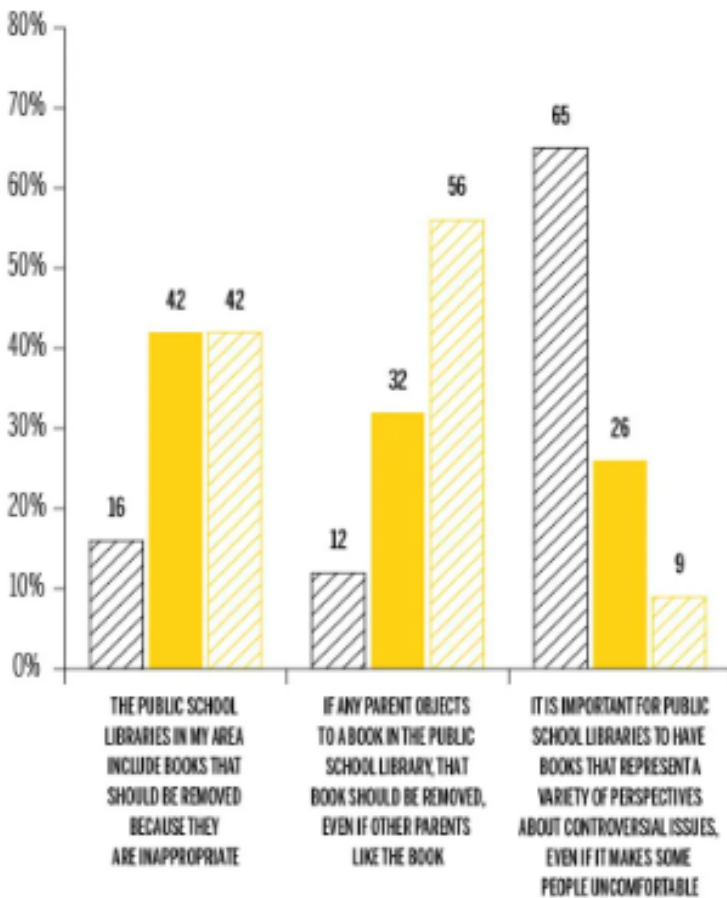


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How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



(Asked of all Americans.)



STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE
 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
 STRONGLY DISAGREE/DISAGREE

SOURCE: The American Family Survey 2022 was conducted online to a matched sample on gender, race, age and education Aug. 8-15, 2022. The sample size is 3,000 and the overall margin of error is +/- 1.9 percentage points.

AMERICAN FAMILY SURVEY RESULTS

Deseret News recently released the results of The American Family Survey that finds Americans oppose removing school library books if a parent objects but indicate low levels of support for transgender youth. Read the full article [here](#).

U of U FOOTBALL PLAYERS SHARE THEIR FAVORITE BOOKS

Regardless of whether you bleed red or blue or purple, please enjoy this video of [University of Utah football players sharing their favorite books](#).

