

# SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER

October 2024

Happy Fall Time, ELA Colleagues!

September got away from me, so this month's newsletter is full of several opportunities. In addition to the seasonal change, I'm looking forward to the National Day of Writing and the upcoming webinar I'm hosting with Dr. Debbie Dean on style in writing instruction. Be sure to give the new guidance document written by her a look and use it to inform your instruction and work with teachers and students.

Naomi Watkins  
USBE Secondary ELA Specialist  
naomi.watkins@schools.utah.gov

## I'M CURRENTLY ENJOYING:

- *The Small & the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History, from the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement* by Sharon McMahon
- *Elsbeth* on CBS



## P-12 ELA STANDARDS RESOURCES

Link to resource folder which includes:

- Secondary ELA Webinars from 2023-24 – **you can still view them!**
- Best Practices in Secondary ELA
- FAQs
- Reading Strand Standards Breakdown
- Speech Progression Chart
- Slides from summer 2023 professional learning
- Resources shared by other districts (e.g., vertical alignment)
- ACT Crosswalk
- Grades 6 - 12 Core Guides
- Formative Assessment Process Toolkit
- **NEW!!!** Bringing Grammar and Language to Life Through Evidence-Based Practices (USBE guidance document written by Dr. Deborah Dean)





# SECONDARY ELA WEBINAR

**Style: Grammar through the Backdoor**



OCTOBER 10, 2024

04.00 PM – 05.00 PM MDT

Grammar for grammar's sake doesn't usually appeal to our students. But if they know style—that the ways they use words can elevate their writing and give them control over it—they usually have more interest. There's a reason for learning how words and sentences work and the effects different choices can have! In this session, participants will learn a pattern for setting up lessons on style that can help students learn elements of grammar that improve their writing. But through the backdoor.



**DR. DEBORAH DEAN**  
**BYU PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH**

Interested in earning  
0.5 USBE credit?



**REGISTER NOW**

**LEARN MORE** >>

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## 2024–25 SECONDARY ELA PROFESSIONAL LEARNING WEBINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Presenter
Thurs, Oct. 10	Writer's Craft	Dr. Deborah Dean
Wed, Nov. 13	Effective Writing Assignments	Dr. Amber Jensen & ELA educator
Mon, Dec. 9	AI in Secondary ELA	Matt Winters
Wed, Jan. 15	Explicit Writing Instruction	Dr. Naomi Watkins
Mon, Feb. 10	Effective Writing Assessments	Dr. Amber Jensen & ELA educator
March	Multisyllabic Words & Vocabulary	TBD
April	TBD	
Tues, May 6	Reflection Writing	Dr. Amber Jensen & ELA educator



*The Annual Utah Humanities Book Festival is Utah's oldest and only statewide book festival and has become Utah's signature literary event.*

### Utah Humanities Book Festival: A Lasting Legacy

Held during October's National Book Month, the book festival offers both virtual and in-person events.

[LEARN MORE](#)



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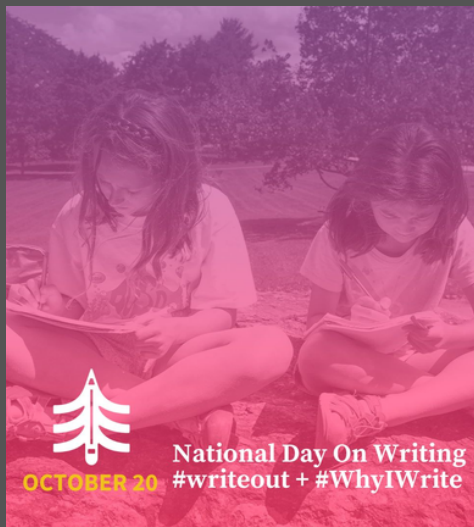
Write Out is a free two-week celebration of writing, making, and sharing inspired by the great outdoors. It is an open invitation to get out and create that is supported with a series of online activities, made especially for educators, students, and families, to explore neighborhoods, parks, and other public spaces. This year's theme is Poetry for the Planet.

Visit the website to find a set of ideas and activities to do with your classes or groups on the Poetry for the Planet Choice Board. Enjoy featured events including two special episodes of The Write Time with Write Out Author Ambassador Kate Messner (October 15) and Write Out Poet Ambassador Jermaine Thompson (October 22).

## Celebrate the National Day on Writing

On October 20, follow the hashtag [#WhyIWrite](#) on social media, [find a local #writeout activity](#), or [join the Write Now Teacher Studio](#) for a drop-in and write hour.

Read about why other people write [The #WhyIWrite collection](#), part of the National Writing Project's "From the Archives" collection, features short essays by NWP Writers Council members about why they write. Enjoy them yourself and share them with your students.



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HISTORIC CHANGE:  
CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF

*Zitkála-Šá*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024  
7 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

SALT LAKE CITY MAIN LIBRARY  
AUDITORIUM



BETTER DAYS  
utahwomenshistory.org



Utah  
Historical Society



The United States Mint and the National Women's History Museum, in partnership with Better Days and the Utah Historical Society, invite you to a special evening in celebration of Zitkála-Šá and the new quarter released in her honor.

This inspiring program will include remarks by special guests; a conversation about Zitkála-Šá's life and legacy; and a screening of a short film about her life. All attendees will receive the new Zitkála-Šá quarter at the conclusion of the program.

The [American Women Quarters™ Program](#) is the first circulating coin program dedicated to honoring women whose achievements, triumphs and legacies reflect the strength, perseverance, and resiliency of our nation.

This event is free and open to the public. Please register in advance.



**REGISTER  
NOW!**

# SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER

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presents

# STORY CON

At Operation Literacy, 501c3 Nonprofit, we join with educators in our efforts to inspire young writers and readers and empower them to tell their own unique stories. For years, we've brought you Teen and Tween Author Boot Camp as some of the nation's largest writing conferences for kids. To build upon this program and ensure greater impact and access for your students, we've merged the two conferences, adding programming tracks for educators and general audiences to form **StoryCon, held February 21-22, 2025, at the Salt Palace Convention Center.**

At StoryCon your students will:

- Connect - with our powerful community of aspiring and bestselling authors. (See our full list of headliners at [Storycon.org](http://Storycon.org))
- Create - by learning skills that empower students to tell their authentic stories in our amazing list of Teen Classes
- Become - the author, playwright, screenwriter, game developer, journalist, or storyteller they've always wanted to be.

While students learn and celebrate story, **teachers and librarians may attend a two-day educator conference track.** This includes classes and keynotes taught by internationally bestselling authors, networking opportunities, a vast expo hall of bookish and education-focused vendors, giveaways, and up to 5 SUU graduate credits for attendees.

Access and equity, especially for students from Title 1 populations, is at the core of our mission. To make StoryCon affordable for students of all backgrounds, we've accumulated **a vast array of funding resources** including scholarships, school group discounts with free educator passes, pre-written funding application letters, and more.

Additionally, we have the following printable and digital assets:

- A printable [TEEN](#) poster for hanging in the classroom
- A printable [TWEEN](#) poster for hanging in the classroom
- [TEEN](#) ¼-sheet flyers for printing and distribution
- [TWEEN](#) ¼-sheet flyers for printing and distribution
- Full digital [StoryCon Educator Guide](#)



Contact Heather Clark for questions: [cco@operationliteracy.org](mailto:cco@operationliteracy.org)

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## STORY CON

*Contests and Publications*



TEEN

First line  
First Chapter  
Poetry Anthology  
Short Story Anthology

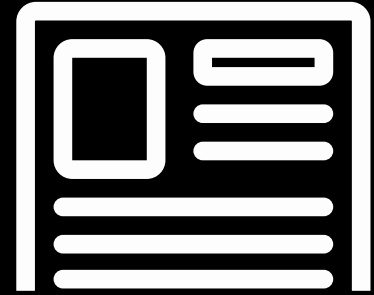


TWEEN

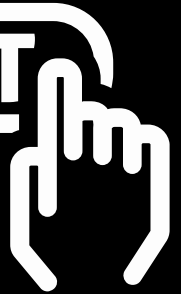
First Paragraph



Submit your writing NOW!



SUBMIT



## STORY CON BOOK CLUB

Jennifer A. Nielsen hosts  
a Free Virtual Classroom Visit  
with Newbery Award Winning Author

**Moses Ose Utomi**

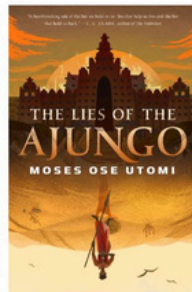


1 PM MST  
Nov 6th

or watch recording  
anytime afterward



TEEN



## STORY CON BOOK CLUB

Jennifer A. Nielsen hosts  
a Free Virtual Classroom Visit  
by bestselling authors

**Marissa Meyer & Joanne Levy**



10 AM MST, Nov 6th  
or watch recording anytime afterward



TWEEN



LEARN MORE

# SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER

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**Bring Your Students into  
the Civic Conversation**

**KQED Election 2024**

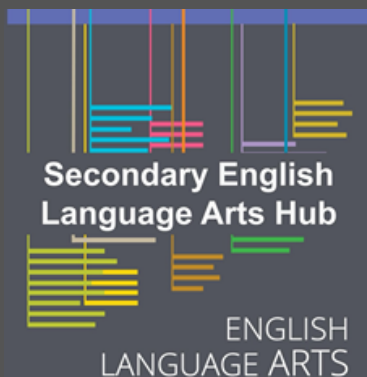


**LEARN MORE >>**

Call for Change is a free Youth Media Challenge project for middle and high school students, offered as an Election 2024 activity in partnership with PBS LearningMedia and the National Writing Project. The project guides your students through making a personal connection to an election issue, researching or advocating for a solution and creating an audio or video commentary or editorial cartoon to share their ideas. The Call for Change project resources feature teacher-tested, ready-to-use curriculum in both English and Spanish and includes a teacher toolkit, project checklists and rubrics.

Who can participate? Any educator who works with students in grades 6-12, in learning settings from classrooms to after-school to community programs, can set up a Youth Media Challenge account and invite students to submit media. Since election topics span all areas of the curriculum, submissions from all subject areas are welcome!

Election-related student media submitted from now through November 5, 2024.



## UEN SECONDARY ELA MEDIA HUB

UEN is working on curating a hub for secondary ELA resources. Phase 1 is now live, and we will be continuing to evaluate and add resources. If you have quality online resources that you frequently use, feel free to send them my way so we can get them on the hub.



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## NEW RESOURCES OF INTEREST!

- [“Research on Motivation, Literacy, & Reading Development: A Review of Best Practices”](#) from Institute of Museum & Library Services
- [“Reimagining ELA: Artificial Intelligence as a Literacy Intervention Tool”](#) from *English Leadership Quarterly*
- [“Struggling Teenagers Left Out in New Push to Overhaul Reading”](#) from *The New York Times*
- [“Many kids can’t read, even in high school. Is the solution teaching reading in every class?”](#) from The Hechinger Report

## EVIDENCE-BASED SECONDARY LITERACY PRACTICES

These 4 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](#)
- [Guides & Checklist for a School Leader’s Walkthrough During Literacy Instruction in Grades 4-12](#)



**BOOK LOVE**  
F O U N D A T I O N

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.

# FOR THE **LOVE** OF **READING** 2024

October 28-29, 2024 | Provo Marriott

Join us for the For the Love of Reading Conference, where educators, parents, librarians, and enthusiasts gather to celebrate literacy!

Explore evidence-based sessions on:

- Interventions for struggling adolescent readers
- Integrating the arts and reading comprehension
- Using graphic novels in language arts
- Building fluency with high-interest activities
- Inspiring English Learners in the classroom
- Setting high expectations for early readers
- Navigating book challenges

Don't miss this opportunity to learn evidence-based practices and share the best in books and teaching. Let's change lives through literacy together!

## GUEST SPEAKERS



Brandon  
Mull



Guy  
Francis



Angela  
Joy



Jewell  
Parker  
Rhodes



John  
Schu



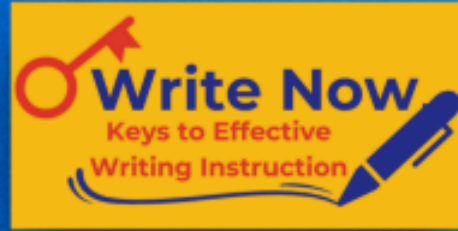
**MORE INFO**



# KEYS TO LITERACY'S FIRST ANNUAL NATIONAL WRITING CONFERENCE



Keys to Literacy



**Dr. Mitchell Brookins**  
Educational Consultant  
Teacher PROs, LLC



**Sonia Cabell, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of Reading Education  
School of Teacher Education &  
Florida Center for Reading Research  
Florida State University



**Elsa Cárdenas Hagan, Ed.D.**  
President  
Valley Speech Language &  
Learning Center



**Shauna Cotte**  
VP & Senior Director,  
Professional Development  
Keys to Literacy



**Steve Graham**  
Regents Professor  
Arizona State University

## Practical, Evidence-Based Teaching Practices Aligned to *The Writing Rope*



**Charles W. Haynes, EdD, CCC-SLP**  
Professor Emeritus  
MGH Institute of Health Professions



**Dr. Pam Kastner**  
State Lead for Literacy  
PaTTAN



**Lisa Klein**  
VP & Senior Director,  
Relationship Management  
Keys to Literacy



**Joan Sedita**  
Founder  
Keys to Literacy



**Dr. Stephanie Stollar**  
Founder  
The Reading Science Academy

**A virtual day of learning | November 15, 2024 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM EST**

LEARN MORE >>



**1 day**  
**11 sessions**  
**10 expert speakers**

REGISTER NOW >



Conference Pass

 **\$49** 

# READY TO ADVANCE YOUR CAREER

## Master's of Education (M.Ed) in Literacy Education AND Secondary Literacy Interventionist Endorsement

Literacy Education at the University of Utah develops literacy professionals and leaders in a variety of educational settings

Contact Us:  
Program Director, Dr. Claire Son  
[literacy@utah.edu](mailto:literacy@utah.edu)

### Program Overview

Our program provides research-based professional education, dedicated to develop exemplary practitioners and leaders in the field of literacy. We are committed to support research-informed teaching practices to ensure literacy learning for all students.

Students can take individual endorsement courses, which can count toward a master's degree in literacy education (33 credits).



### Secondary Literacy Interventionist Endorsement

We offer USBE approved courses to fulfill all ten competency areas for Secondary Literacy Interventionist Endorsement.

- (Area 1) EDPS 6711-030 Foundations of Literacy
- (Area 2) EDPS 6631-030 Assessment and Intervention
- (Area 3) EDPS 6126-030 Content Area Literacy Instruction
- (Areas 4,5,6) EDPS 6713-030 Literacy Acquisition
- (Area 7) EDPS 6840-030 Vocabulary
- (Area 8) EDPS 6714-030 Comprehension
- (Area 9) EDPS 6130-030 Writing
- (Area 10) EDPS 6124-030 Children & Adolescent Literature in the School

### A Different Kind of Program

Our courses are fully online with summer and evening classes to accommodate a working schedule of professionals, including:

- PreK-12 educators
- Literacy specialists
- Reading coaches
- School media/library specialists
- Special education teachers
- School administrators

Our core courses are offered at a significantly reduced rate for educators. Merit-based scholarships are available for master's students.

With rolling admission, you can start your study during any semester.





## Earn your Secondary Literacy Interventionist endorsement

The School of Teacher Education and Leadership is now offering 5 courses that will count towards a Secondary Literacy Interventionist endorsement through the Utah State Board of Education. Join us and finish your endorsement in just 3 semesters! This sequence of endorsement courses can be started during any semester and will be offered yearly. For more information on literacy courses at USU, contact Dr. Marla Robertson: [marla.robertson@usu.edu](mailto:marla.robertson@usu.edu).

All courses will be offered either online or through synchronous broadcast over Zoom. Students are not required to attend through a USU campus.

### Courses (3 credits each):

- TEAL 5380 Effective Writing Instruction
- TEAL 5320 Foundations of Literacy\*
- TEAL 6350 Literacy Assessment and Intervention
- TEAL 6340 Adolescent Literacy Development and Engagement
- TEAL 6310 Multi-Component Literacy Instruction and Interventions

*\*If you have completed LETRS training, you can be exempt from taking TEAL 5320.*

These courses can also count towards a Master of Education in Curriculum & Instruction at USU. To learn more about graduate programs visit [cehs.usu.edu/teal/graduate/master-of-ed](https://cehs.usu.edu/teal/graduate/master-of-ed) or contact Dr. Max Longhurst: [max.longhurst@usu.edu](mailto:max.longhurst@usu.edu).

To view the Secondary Literacy Interventionist endorsement application scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/SIL-endorsementapplication](https://bit.ly/SIL-endorsementapplication)



Emma Eccles Jones  
College of Education & Human Services  
UtahStateUniversity

