



Welcome again to the English Language Arts Common Core Listserv!

Once more, we would like to make listserv participants aware that this list was initially created by your attendance at a workshop sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education Content Area Specialists regarding Shift Kits for the Common Core State Standards. Your information will not be sold, traded, or given to any third party; and if you respond to this email, it will **not** go to the rest of the listserv.

We hope your first quarter has passed with ease—We would like to take this opportunity to share some of the most recent tools and resources designed to support your literacy efforts. We would like to formally announce that the electronic versions of our ELA shift kits are now live and available! Please visit our site at your earliest convenience and make note of the many exciting updates and additions that have been made to the original content. We have tried to maintain our original work as long as documents were still available. Due to internet document availability changes, certain items may have changed. The following have been included:

- **Administrator Kit:** These have been divided into an Elementary and a Secondary Kit; a section for each type of school administrator has been added, as well as a Leadership Guidance folder with a distinct amount of information from resources such as NEA and Achieve.
- **Writing from Sources and Narrative Writing:** Due to the overwhelming amount of resources that became available from some of the best researchers in the business, a proactive approach was taken and these kits were revamped. PowerPoints, Research, and Handouts have all been updated.
- **Content Area Literacy:** Several new resources, handouts, and supplementary materials have been added to this in order to incorporate disciplinary literacy.

These are just a few of the many new concepts but every kit has something new that has been added and we hope you enjoy the new site located at: <http://education.illinoisstate.edu/casei/ela/> We have been working very hard to make the website active so please be patient as we work on fixing any issues the site may currently be experiencing.

This is not the only item we have to announce! PARCC has just released new prototype sample test questions for ELA! If you have not seen these, please visit <http://parcconline.org/samples/item-task-prototypes> . Your grade level may be found on the left side of the screen, in addition to the writing rubrics and a tab for *Writing Forms at the bottom of the page*, which details the different types of writing that students may encounter at each grade level.

We have also continued to develop our newsletters for the year on the ISBE website: [http://isbe.net/common\\_core/htmls/news.htm](http://isbe.net/common_core/htmls/news.htm) . This year, the newsletter will focus on high quality websites that can provide teachers with ideas and resources to assist them with implementation of the CCSS.

In other news, our Data and Assessment Content Area Specialist team recently hosted Dr. Tom Guskey in Springfield. His field of expertise in Standards-Based Reporting led the team to create a website that houses some of his excellent materials, resources, and information. Please visit: [www.isbesbr.weebly.com](http://www.isbesbr.weebly.com) for more.

Finally, we ask that you give us a hand! Ask your partners and grade level friends to sign up on this listserv! To join, simply visit the shift kit website and click on the ELA Listserv **Sign Up** tab to continue to receive important updates and materials. We hope your second quarter is filled with helpful resources to assist you in your journey to implement the CCSS! Enjoy the holiday season!

ELA Content Specialist Team