

UbD-Related Websites for English/Language Arts and Library/Media Programs

Compiled by Jay McTighe

I have compiled the following collection of websites in support of curriculum and assessment design using the Understanding by Design (UbD)® framework. Please e-mail me (jaymctighe@verizon.net) if you discover outdated links as well as other useful sites that you find so that I can add to this list.

Key: ** Highly Recommended * Recommended

STATES and DISTRICTS

**** Massachusetts**

Through the Race to the Top Initiative, teams of educators from across the state used the UbD Framework to develop UbD units from pre-k to grade 12 in E/LA and other subject areas.

A free registration is required to access these materials at the following website:

http://www.doe.mass.edu/candi/model/download_form.aspx

A series of classroom videos showing some of these units in use.

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/candi/model/videos.html>

*** Ohio DOE** provides model curriculum units in Social Studies. The E/LA units contain Essential Questions.

<http://www.education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1696&ContentID=83819&Content=121448>

Pennsylvania – The Pennsylvania Department of Education has established the Standards Aligned System (SAS) containing curriculum resources. Select E/LA and a grade range (e.g., 6 – 8) or Course (e.g., Pre-Algebra) to view Big Ideas (understandings) and Essential Questions.

<http://www.pdesas.org/module/sas/curriculumframework/>

*** The New York City BOE Common Core Library** includes a searchable database of assessment tasks aligned to the Common Core Standards for pre-K – 12 in E/LA and other subjects.

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/default.htm>

Weathersfield, CT – Using UbD to frame district curriculum. From Home Page, click on “curriculum”, then click on “curriculum documents” by subjects.

http://www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us/Staff_info/curriculum/curriculum_instruc.htm

Essential Questions in LITERATURE

**** Essential Questions in Literature** developed in **Greece Central Schools**, NY. Some of the designated literary themes are intended to connect with companion Social Studies courses.

There are many other excellent resources on this site, including *Tools for Reading, Writing & Thinking* and *ELA Best Practices* and Rubrics
<http://www.greece.k12.ny.us/academics.cfm?subpage=923>

* Literary Essential Questions for High School courses developed in **Scarsdale, NY Public Schools**.
<http://www.scarsdaleschools.org/Page/570>

**** Common Lit** offers a free, downloadable collection of texts framed by essential questions.
<http://commonlit.org>

* **SpringBoard®** from The College Board presents curriculum maps with Essential Questions for English/Language Arts for Middle and High School Levels (Grades 6-12). The sets of EQs include reading and writing processes as well as some literary themes. This website includes two Writing Workshop Samples for Grades 7 and 9. Click on links to view.

• http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/springboard/SB_ELA_Middle_School_Levels_At_A_Glance_2010_10-7-2010.pdf

• http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/springboard/SB_ELA_High_School_Levels_At_A_Glance_2010_10-7-2010.pdf

* **AERO Standards** for International Schools include a set of Understandings and Essential Questions – Reading (pp. 20, 21, 60), Writing (pp. 71-72), Listening and Speaking (pp. 80-81), and Language Foundations (pp. 85-86).
http://www.projectaero.org/aero_standards/ELA/AERO-ELA-Framework.pdf

* **The New York City DOE Common Core Library** includes a searchable database of units, assessment tasks and samples of student work aligned to the Common Core Standards for pre-K – 12 in E/LA and other subjects.
<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/TasksUnitsStudentWork/default.htm>

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/CommonCoreClassroom/ELA/default.htm>

* A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions developed by the **New Jersey DOE**. Click this link to download a pdf file and scroll down to page 7 to view.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/njscp/Phase1allAreas.pdf#page=7>

<http://www.easthampton.k12.ma.us/adminoffice.cfm?subpage=825206>

<http://www2.westerville.k12.oh.us/Curriculum/Courses%20of%20Study/ELA/Grades%206-7-8%20Enduring%20Understandings%2005-2009.pdf>

http://schools.bibb.k12.ga.us/cms/lib01/GA01000598/Centricity/Domain/92/5th_Grade_ELA_Curriculum_Map.pdf

EQs for 5th grade

<http://homeconnection.ohsd.net/documents/11thGradeEnglishEssentialQuestions.pdf>

EQs for 11th grade English

Overarching (program-level) Understandings and Essential Questions for English-Language Arts from **Easthampton, MA Public Schools**

<http://www.easthampton.k12.ma.us/adminoffice.cfm?subpage=825206>

Wallingford, CT Public Schools – Click on link “K-12 Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions” to access a pdf file.

<http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/page.cfm?p=12567>

Westerville, OH Public Schools –

<http://www2.westerville.k12.oh.us/Curriculum/Courses%20of%20Study/ELA/Grades%206-7-8%20Enduring%20Understandings%2005-2009.pdf>

Ohio DOE provides model curricula tied to the Common Core Standards in E/LA. The E/LA curriculum models include Enduring Understandings.

<http://www.education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1696&ContentID=83819&Content=121448>

NBC Learn offers a series of videos featuring writers speaking to students about their craft.

<http://www.nbclearn.com/portal/site/learn/writers-speak-to-kids>

This website poses essential Questions to spark pro-con debates by essay writers.

<http://www.templeton.org/signature-programs/big-questions-essay-series>

Ask Big Questions – A website that poses “big (essential) questions” around important topics that matter to all of us, regardless of our religious traditions, cultural heritage, race, ethnicity, gender, and personal or political beliefs. A new, thought-provoking question is posed each month. (Note: Educator discretion is needed since not all posted questions will be appropriate to raise with students in public schools.)

<http://askbigquestions.org/questions>

Notosh – Ideas for guiding students to create their own essential questions as part of “design thinking”

<http://notosh.com/lab/googleable-vs-non-googleable-questions/>

***** **LIBRARY/MEDIA** *****

Collections of resources including lesson plans (k-12) on various media center topics (e.g., Research skills; lessons linked to subject areas).

<http://aasl.jesandco.org/facet/results>

<http://www.sldirectory.com/libsf/resf/libplans.html>

<http://www.sldirectory.com/index.html#top>

PA DOE Model Curriculum for Library/Media Programs based on UbD

<http://www.pdesas.org/module/sas/curriculumframework/librarymodelcurriculum.aspx>

<http://blogs.slj.com/neverendingsearch/2012/12/31/model-library-curriculum-shared-on-our-dept-of-ed-portal/>

Useful article presents a **Matrix** for school librarians to use in aligning Common Core Standards and informational literacy skills in inquiry, reading, and research.

<http://www.schoollibrarymonthly.com/articles/pdf/Moreillon2013-v29n4p29.pdf>

Common Core Crosswalks for Librarians/Media Specialists

<http://www.ala.org/aasl/guidelinesandstandards/commoncorecrosswalk>

American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Standards for the 21st-Century offers a lesson plan database.

<http://aasl.jesandco.org/>

STAGE 2 – Performance Assessment Tasks and Rubrics

**** Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC)** – Funded by the Gates Foundation, the LDC has developed a set of task templates and instructional modules linked to the Common Core E/LA Standards. The templates support the integration of the E/LA Standards with content from Science, Social Studies and Technical subjects. Click on these links to learn more and view sample templates and associated curriculum modules.

<https://ldc.org/>

<https://ldc.org/sample-curricula>

* High School level LDC templates with examples.

<http://jaymctighe.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/LDC-Templates-and-Task-Samples-high-school.pdf>

* Additional LDC Task examples are available from the **PA DOE Standards Aligned System (SAS)**. Logon to **SAS** at <http://www.pdesas.org>, then search by keyword “LDC” to access tasks in science and social studies (secondary level). Many of the posted reading and writing tasks are also supported by writing exemplars – annotated student models.

**** Teachers College (Columbia)** – Reading and Writing Performance Tasks, K-8. <http://readingandwritingproject.org/resources/assessments/reading-writing-assessments>

**** ThinkCERCA** is an online, CCSS-aligned literacy program with tools and content so teachers can help students learn to read closely, think critically, and develop powerful arguments. Search on the Library of Leveled Authentic Texts and tasks.

<https://learn.thinkcerca.com/library>

* **Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts**

Appendix B provides a set of text samples to exemplify the level of complexity and quality that the Standards require of students in a given grade band.

Appendix C offers many seed ideas for performance tasks along with student writing samples to illustrate what it takes to meet the standards.

<http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards>

* A collection of E/LA assessment task ideas developed by the **Illinois DOE**.

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/ela/capd.htm>

* **Albuquerque, NM Public Schools** have developed sets of E/LA tasks and writing rubrics (at the secondary level) aligned to the Common Core Standards. Choose “E/LA” and grade level to view.

http://rda.aps.edu/RDA/Performance_Task_Bank/index.cfm

* **Pennsylvania's Student Aligned System (SAS)** offers sample tasks for connecting the E/LA Standards (informational and explanatory writing; argumentative/persuasive writing) to Social Studies and Science using the Literacy Design Collaborative task frames.

<http://www.pdesas.org/module/content/search/#search>

* A collection of authentic tasks, rubrics and student exemplars developed by the **Ontario, CN Ministry of Education**. Click on "Exemplars" to view.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/english.html>

The New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) releases some assessment items from each of the NECAP assessments are released to the public, along with support materials and related examples of student work. A set of writing prompts can be found at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/Assessment/NECAPAssessment/NECAPReleasedItems.aspx>

** Analytic rubrics for CCSS E/LA in reading and writing from **PARCC**.

- **Grade 3** – <http://www.parcconline.org/samples/english-language-artsliteracy/grade-3-generic-rubrics-draft>
- **Grade 4/5** – <http://www.parcconline.org/samples/english-language-artsliteracy/grades-4-5-generic-rubrics-draft>
- **Grade 6/11** – <http://www.parcconline.org/samples/english-language-artsliteracy/grades-6-11-generic-rubrics-draft>

** Analytic rubrics for CCSS E/LA in reading and writing from the **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium**

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Performance-Tasks-Writing-Rubrics.pdf>

* An analytic reading response rubric developed by **Quakertown, PA Schools**

<http://www.qcsd.org/Page/376>

* A collection of quality rubrics for Writing, Speaking, Debate, and Socratic Seminar from **Greece Central Schools, NY**

<http://www.greece.k12.ny.us/academics.cfm?subpage=1369>

* A collection of writing rubrics with illustrative writing samples for K-8 from **Ontario, CN**

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/writing18ex.pdf>

* Writing rubrics for narrative, expository and persuasive writing developed by **Quakertown, PA Schools**

<http://www.qcsd.org/Page/371>

* An analytic trait rubric to assess students in Responding to Text (Grades K-4) available from **Exemplars.com**. Click on the link to download a pdf file.

<http://www.exemplars.com/resources/rubrics/assessment.php>

* An analytic trait rubric to assess students in Narrative Writing available from **Exemplars.com**. Click on the link to download a pdf file.

<http://www.exemplars.com/resources/rubrics/assessment.php>

A holistic Reading Rubric available from **Exemplars.com**. Click on the link to download a pdf file.

<http://www.exemplars.com/resources/rubrics/assessment.php>

A holistic Writing/Communications Rubric available from **Exemplars.com**. Click on the link to download a pdf file.

<http://www.exemplars.com/resources/rubrics/assessment.php>

A holistic Research Rubric available from **Exemplars.com**. Click on the link to download a pdf file.

<http://www.exemplars.com/resources/rubrics/assessment.php>

* A set of developmental/proficiency continuums for Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking developed by Bonnie Campbell-Hill.

<http://www.bonniecampbellhill.com/support.php>