Key Principles For ELL Instruction

Understanding Language[[1]](#footnote-1)

January 2013

1. **Before Reading:** Review the following chart and discuss the following question.

**Common Core Instructional Shifts: English Language Arts[[2]](#footnote-2)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Balancing Informational & Literary Texts** | Impact on elementary classroom (in particular)  50% of reading must be using informational text (K-5)  60% (6-12) |
| **Text Complexity at ALL Grades** | Students must “step” up to reading grade appropriate text; Close Reading-how a student is coached to interact with text |
| **Building Knowledge in the Disciplines** | All content area teachers plan for literacy experiences an strategies in their instruction |
| **Text Based Conversations and Answers** | Encouraging students in rigorous conversations dependent on text  Supporting students in making evidenced based arguments in conversation and in writing |
| **Writing from Sources** | Emphasis on evidence to inform or make an argument rather than narratives and other decontextualized prompts |
| **Academic Vocabulary** | Building Vocabulary to access increasingly complex text |

**Discuss:** What is your opinion on the Common Core and the implications for ELLs—specifically the ELA instructional shifts?

1. **During Reading:** Take notes in the chart as you read.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Key Principle | My Opinion | Questions/Comments/Concerns |
| 1 |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |

1. **After Reading:** Discuss the following question.

* How do we maintain the rigorous expectations outlined in the Common Core while also actively supporting the language needs of ELLs?
* Do the principles outlined by Understanding Language appropriately address the challenges and opportunities created by the Common Core? Why/Why not?

1. Understanding Language is an initiative of Stanford University, Graduate School of Education, that aims to enrich academic content and language development for English Learners by making explicit the language and literacy required to meet Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards http://ell.standford.edu [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Taken from The School District of Philadelphia Office of Curriculum and Instruction website http://webgui.phila.k12.pa.us/offices/c/curriculum/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)