



Our Students. Their Moment.

# An Introduction to the Common Core State Standards

What they mean for you and your children



# What are the Common Core Standards?

- <http://vimeo.com/51933492>

*“These Standards are not intended to be new names for old ways of doing business. **They are a call to take the next step...** It is time to recognize that standards are not just promises to our children, but **promises we intend to keep.**”*

-- The Common Core State Standards in Math, page 5

# The new standards will...

- **Prepare** students to succeed in college and the workforce
- **Ensure** that every child—regardless of race, ethnicity or zip code—is held to the same high standards and learns the same material
- **Provide** educators with a clear, focused roadmap for what to teach and when

# What are the Common Core Standards?

- A single set of **clear standards** for English language arts and mathematics
- **A tool** to help students and parents set clear and realistic goals for success
- **A first step** in providing young people with the high-quality education that will prepare them for success in college and careers

# What's different in the new standards?

## English Language Arts/Literacy:

- Focus on **non-fiction**, careful reading
- Discuss reading and write using **evidence**
- Increase **academic vocabulary**

## Mathematics

- Learn more about **fewer concepts**
- Focus on **skill building, speed and accuracy**
- Use of **real world examples** to better understand concepts

# How has the Common Core impacted NYS assessments?

**Pre ELA Example  
versus  
Post ELA Example**

# ELA Test Question – Pre Common Core

In both the *Demosthenes* biography and the *Icarus and Daedalus* myth the main characters are given advice from other people. Do you respond to advice from other people more like Demosthenes or more like Icarus? Write an essay in which you explain who you are more like when it comes to taking advice and why. Use details from both articles to support your answer.

In your response, be sure to do the following:

- tell whether you are more like Demosthenes or Icarus
- explain why you respond to advice similar to Demosthenes or Icarus
- use details from both passages in your response

# ELA Test Question – Post Common Core

In both the *Demosthenes* biography and the *Icarus and Daedalus* myth the main characters exhibit determination in pursuit of their goals. Did determination help both main characters reach their goals, or did it lead them to tragedy? **Write an argument** for whether you believe determination helped or hurt the two main characters. In your response, be sure to do the following:

- **describe** how determination affected the outcome in *Demosthenes*
- **describe** how determination affected the outcome in *Icarus and Daedalus*
- **explain** the similarities or differences that exist in the ways determination played into the outcome of both texts
- **use details** from both passages in your response

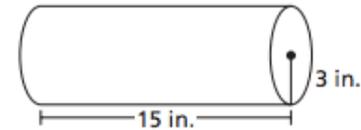
# Math Test Question: Pre-Common Core

## 7.G04

Determine the surface area of prisms and cylinders, using a calculator and a variety of methods.

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The diagram below shows a pillow Chris wants to cover with fabric.



[not drawn to scale]

What is the total surface area of the pillow? Round your answer to the nearest hundredth.

*Show your work.*

*Answer* \_\_\_\_\_ square inches

If Chris shortens the length of the pillow from 15 inches to 12 inches, how much less fabric will she need? Round your answer to the nearest hundredth.

*Show your work.*

*Answer* \_\_\_\_\_ square inches

# Math Test Question: Post Common Core

## 6.G.1

Find the area of right triangles, other triangles, special quadrilaterals, and polygons by composing into rectangles or decomposing into triangles and other shapes; apply these techniques in the context of solving real-world and mathematical problems.

## 6.RP.1

Understand the concept of a ratio and use ratio language to describe a ratio relationship between two quantities.

For example, “The ratio of wings to beaks in the bird house at the zoo was 2:1, because for every 2 wings there was 1 beak.” “For every vote candidate A received, candidate C received nearly three votes.”

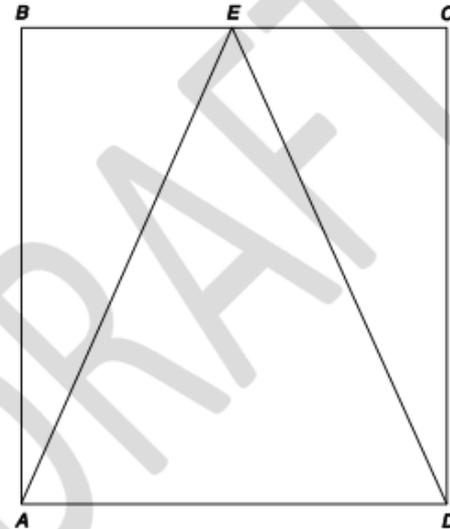
Domain: Geometry  
Item: CR

- 11** Triangle  $ADE$  is inside rectangle  $ABCD$ . Point  $E$  is halfway between points  $B$  and  $C$  on the rectangle. Side  $AB$  is 8 cm and side  $AD$  is 7 cm.

**Part A:** What is the area of triangle  $ADE$ ? **Show your work.**

**Part B:** What is the ratio of the area of triangle  $ABE$  to the area of triangle  $ADE$ ?

**Part C:** What is the ratio of the area of triangle  $CDE$  to the area of rectangle  $ABCD$ ?



(Not drawn to scale)

# Parent support can help students succeed.

- By **staying involved, informed and engaged**, parents can help students be successful
- There are many ways to help:
  - **Read** with your children
  - **Review** and discuss their homework
  - **Communicate** with their teachers
  - **Attend** school events to learn more
  - **Learn** about the standards and how they affect your child's education and school
  - **Look** through your child's backpack each afternoon

# Backpacks: What you should see

Real-world examples that makes what they're learning in English and math make more sense

Books that are both fiction *and* non-fiction



Math homework that asks students to write out *how* they got their answer

Writing assignments that require students to use *evidence* instead of opinion

Math homework that ask students to use different methods to solve the same problem

# Some questions to ask your child

Did you talk about anything you read in class today? Did you use evidence when you talked about what you read?

Did you learn any new words in class today? What do they mean? How do you spell them?

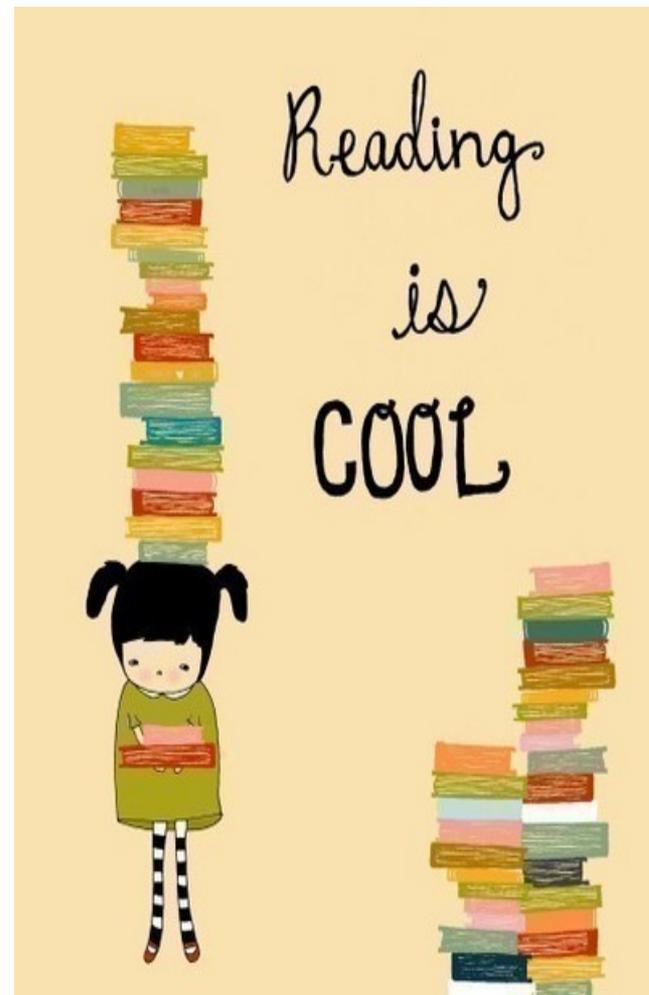


How did you use evidence in school today? Where did you get it?

How often did you use math today? How did you use it?

# A Closer Look: ELA/Literacy Shifts

- Read as much non-fiction as fiction
- Learn about the world by reading
- Read more challenging material closely
- Discuss reading using evidence
- Write non-fiction using evidence
- Increase academic vocabulary



# A Closer Look: Mathematics Shifts



- Focus: learn more about less
- Build skills across grades
- Develop speed and accuracy
- Really know it, Really do it
- Use it in the real world
- Think fast AND solve problems

engage<sup>ny</sup>

Our Students. Their Moment.

Thank you

