

Common Core Standards That Intersect with These Practices

Reading Standards for Literature, Grades 6–8

10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

Writing Standards, Grades 6–8

1. Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant audience.

↓ How Kathleen enacts the practice	← Teaching Practice →	How Rod enacts the practice ↓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Requires students to keep a list of books that they have read to share with one another. → Encourages students to read books on their reading level to gain ideas for their own writing. → Uses journal entries and reflections to encourage the students to think critically about their own writing. 	<p style="text-align: center;">The teacher conducts mini-lessons about writing craft and conventions that students are expected to apply.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The teacher offers students choice of texts and topics, providing guidance while encouraging students to guide their own learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Encourages students to think about the audience for their persuasive writing. → Uses real-world audiences to allow students to practice their persuasive writing through letter writing.
↓ How Kathleen’s students enact the practice	← Learning Practice →	How Rod’s students enact the practice ↓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Students try out ideas, experiment with craft, and practice using conventions by writing in writer’s notebooks. → Students choose their own writing tasks and select their own books for independent reading with guidance and support from the teacher, who ensures students are being appropriately challenged. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Students choose substantial texts within their reading level to discuss with classmates and the teacher.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Students learn about persuasive writing through engagement in multiple genres including critical reflection, journal entries, and letter writing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Students write for authentic purposes to real audiences about issues of concern to themselves and their communities. → Students develop critical thinking as they investigate, discuss, and write about real-world issues.

NCTE Principles

Students have daily opportunities to read books of their own choice in school.
 Students have daily opportunities to write on topics of their own choice in school.
 Literate practices are embedded in complex social practices.

See pages 102–103 for more on NCTE principles regarding reading instruction and pages 104–105 for more on NCTE principles regarding writing instruction.

Common Core Standards That Intersect with These Practices

Writing Standards, Grades 6–8

5. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

Speaking and Listening Standards, Grade 7

5. Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, images, music, sound) and visual displays in presentations to clarify information.

↓ How Kathleen enacts the practice	← Teaching Practice →	How Rod enacts the practice ↓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Allows parents into the classroom and informs them regularly about their children’s progress. → Uses an Elmo visual presenter to show examples of common grammar confusion in students’ writing. 	<p>The teacher forges strong home–school and home–community connections to engage students and foster support for students’ learning.</p> <p>The teacher uses visual tools to teach writing skills to students with different learning styles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Uses a Photo Journal unit and YouTube clips to offer visual learning and increased connection to the outside world. → Allows students to pair-share written responses and discuss journal entries.
↓ How Kathleen’s students enact the practice	← Learning Practice →	How Rod’s students enact the practice ↓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Students are open to and excited about sharing their work with family and peers. 	<p>Students utilize the support of home communities and peer communities in their projects and writing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Students are given opportunities to share, reflect, critique, and revisit a piece of writing through conversation with their peers.

NCTE Principles

Writing instruction must take into account that a good deal of workplace writing and other writing takes place in collaborative situations.

Writing instruction must include ample in-class and out-of-class opportunities for writing and should include writing for a variety of purposes and audiences.

See pages 104–105 for more on NCTE principles regarding writing instruction and pages 106–107 for more on NCTE principles regarding speaking and listening.