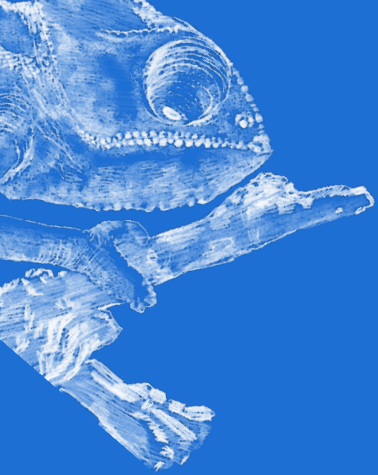




ELA Core Curriculum

for **GRADE 10**

 **ThinkCERCA™**



ThinkCERCA's Core Curriculum was designed to help students develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies to thrive in a global economy.

To be the problem-solvers, leaders, and job-creators of our future, students need to be able to consume complex information, think about it critically, and express their own points of view effectively.

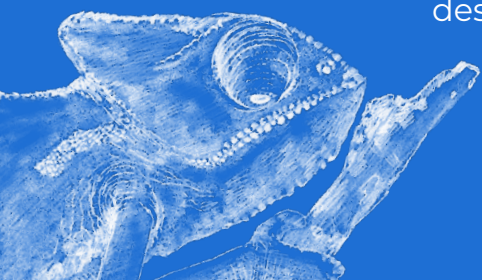
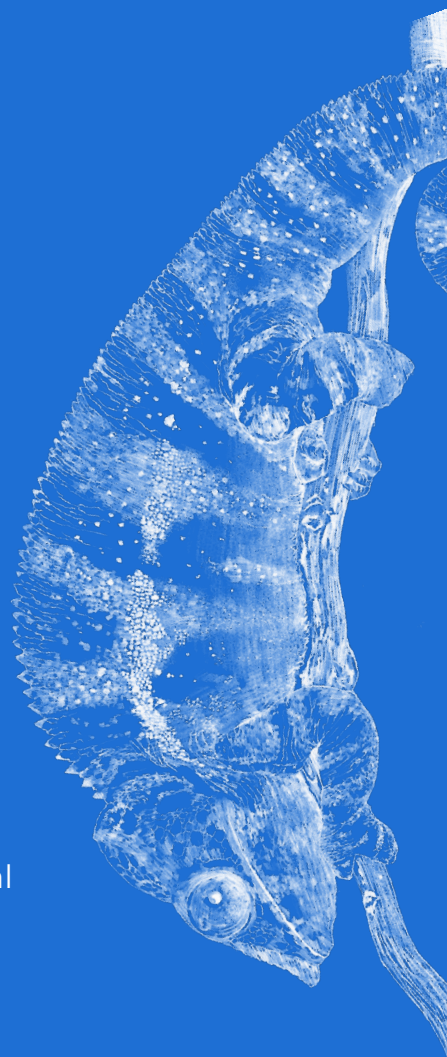
Guiding Values in Our Design:

- Student engagement
- Comprehensive coverage of standards
- Ease of implementation
- Support for best practices in reading and writing routines
- High-quality authentic texts
- Deeper learning opportunities

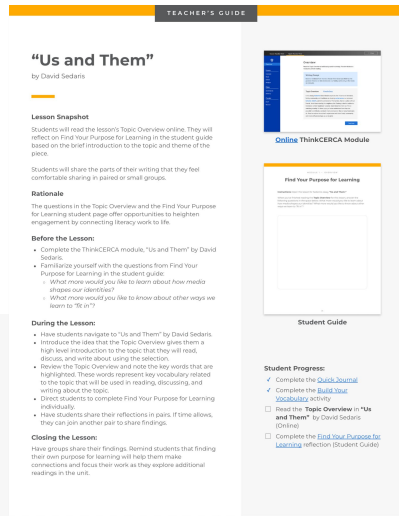
Each grade level invites students to engage in close-reading, analysis and collaboration, formal speaking and listening opportunities, and writing, research, and multimedia portfolio development – all grounded in our research-backed CERCA framework.

Ultimately, we espouse a pedagogy of confidence.

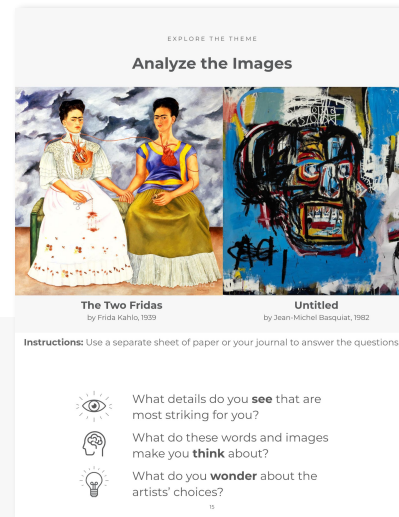
We truly believe that confident young people are the keys to the success of each and every one of our communities. This program is designed to help us spark courageous thinking!



Course Resources



Teacher's Guide



Student Guide

Course Overview

- Roadmap for course including assessment blocks (BOY, MOY, EOY) and unit snapshots
- Portfolio assessments listed to show progression by unit throughout the year
- Assessment practices aligned to SAT and ACT

Student Guide

- Previews for all unit features: goal-setting, modules, speaking/listening activities, portfolio, and reflection
- Offline activities for each module for each step: Before Your Read, Read, Analyze, Write

Unit Planner

- At-a-glance view of the unit lesson and activities included

Differentiation Guides

- Additional instructional supports and ready-made modified materials for both online and offline activities throughout each unit

Teacher's Guide with Facilitator Notes

- Step-by-step guide for unit instruction
- Module preview with summary, unit connection, and key knowledge, understandings, and skills
- Facilitator notes with detailed talking points

Direct Instruction/Skills Practice

- Comprehensive coverage of key skills + concepts
- Flexible implementation options for teacher-led, small group, or self-paced implementation
- Embedded assessment
- Additional leveled skills practice

360 Degrees of Text

Grade 10 Core ELAR

Comprehensive Assessment Resources



Benchmarks



Continuous Embedded Assessment



AP/ACT/SAT Aligned Practice

1

What Makes You, You?

How do various factors shape the people we become? Explore models of narrative nonfiction that examine growing up and becoming one's own person.

Portfolio: Narrative Essay Writing

2

How Do We Solve the Water Problem?

How can we improve access to clean water for all? What happens when a community does not have enough water? What about communities without clean water? Explore these questions through argumentative texts and a variety of other pieces across genres.

Portfolio: Argumentative Essay Writing

3

Who Decides What You Should Do?

How does a utopian ideal lead to a dystopian society? How do people decide who can do what and when? How has this changed over time? Explore these questions through a variety of texts.

Portfolio: Literary Analysis

4

How Do We Feed the World?

What roles do both looking to the past and to the future play in a sustainable world? Where does your food come from? How can you help your community with food sourcing? Learn more about sustainable communities and efforts by individuals to solve problems.

Portfolio: Research Essay

360 Degrees of Text

Grade 10 Core ELAR

5

What Happens to a Dream Deferred?

How does conflict help create new ideas? When conflict is productive, how do communities grow? Explore this question through a full-length drama and a variety of other pieces across genres.

Portfolio: Cause and Effect Essay Writing

6

What Is the Value of College?

How can we find and explore great choices for our careers? Explore readings about the future of work and the resources and frameworks for determining your pathway in life.

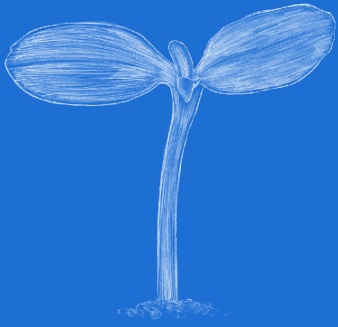
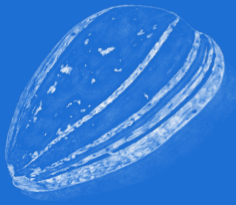
Portfolio: Research Paper

7

How Do Ancient and Sacred Texts Speak to Us?

Where do our beliefs come from? How do we use traditions to shape beliefs? Explore short stories and memoirs about the moments when we have to make defining choices in uncertain times.

Portfolio: Comparative Literary Analysis



Sample Units



What Makes You, You?

Grounding students in the experiences of others similar to and different from them allows students to develop self-awareness, social awareness, and empathy, while giving them opportunities to express their own ideas through a variety of formats.

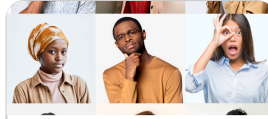
Mentor Texts



Personal Narrative
Us and Them
By David Sedaris



Autobiography
Your Parents Must Be Very Proud
By Richard Rodriguez



Opinion
Choose Your Own Identity
By Bonnie Tsui



Memoir Excerpt
Breaking Night
By Liz Murray

Read Across Genres



Multimedia
Chadwick Boseman "Being the Hero..."
With Trevor Noah



Poetry
To S. M. A Young African Painter, On Seeing...
By Phillis Wheatley



Poetry
Birches
By Robert Frost



Informational Text
How the Brain Creates Personality...
By Stephen M. Kosslyn and G. Wayne Miller



Informational Text
The Surprising Complexity of Animal Memories
By Frans De Waal

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Story Elements: Analyze character, setting, plot
- Author's Craft: Narrative techniques
- Theme: Use evidence to determine theme
- Poetry: Compare details and imagery using the SOAPSTone strategy
- Informational Texts: Determine and trace a central idea through details; Summarize

Use Language and Grammar

- Connotation and Denotation
- Sentence Structure: *but, because, so*
- Parts of Speech: Adjectives
- Punctuation: Non-restrictive elements

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Formal Socratic discussion

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a personal narrative
- Writing process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Error Analysis and Prediction

Essential Question

How do various factors shape who we become?

How Do We Solve the Water Problem?

Investigating real issues that affect real communities all over the country allows for students to build informed opinions on the ways to improve systems. Droughts, desalination, infrastructure, and land rights are all issues that are explored as arguments for water conservation are developed.

Mentor Texts



Feature News Article
America's Clean Water Crisis Goes Far Beyond Flint
 By Justin Worland



Informational News Article
Kathmandu Finally Got Tap Water. After a Climate Disaster, it Was Gone.
 By Emily Schmall and Badra Sharma



Informational News Article
100 Years After Compact, Colorado River Nearing Crisis Point
 By Chris Outcalt and Brittany Peterson



Informational News Article
California and the American West Is Thirsty.
 By Matt Vasilogambros

Read Across Genres



Multimedia
Is Water a Human Right?
 By Justin Worland



Opinion
Let Them Drink Bottled Water
 By Mohammad Hanif



Opinion
Bottled Water Is Sucking Florida Dry
 By Michael Sainato and Chelsea Skojec



Photo Essay
Thirst for Clean Water
 By The Wider Image/Reuters



Infographic
Clean Water and Sanitation: A Global Report Card
 By National Geographic

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Argument: evidence; issues, and appeals
- Author's Craft: Analyze an author's evidence/coherence
- Informational/Argument Texts: Trace and evaluate an argument; Analyze structure
- Compare Arguments: Compare issues, appeals, and evidence in opinion texts
- Visual Texts: Trace and evaluate arguments in photo essays and infographics

Use Language and Grammar

- Connotation and Denotation
- Pronouns (case, intensive)
- Punctuation: Commas

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Formal Debate

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write an argumentative essay
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

How can we improve access to clean water for all?

Who Decides What You Should Do?

Many short stories include other worldly elements, which may make us wonder, “What if?” In this unit, students will explore the essential question, “How can fantasy and other worldly elements of story help us explore important questions about society and our perceptions?” to better understand how society shapes our worldview.

Mentor Texts



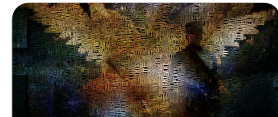
Short Story
Return of the Queen
By Tananarive Due



Short Story
The Lottery
By Shirley Jackson



Short Story
Hop Frog
By Edgar Allan Poe



Short Story
A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings
By Gabriel García Márquez

Read Across Genres



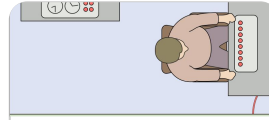
Poetry
Revenge
By Taha Muhammad Ali



Poetry
About Standing (in Kinship)
By Kimberly Blaeser



Multimedia
Compare Dystopian Movie Trailers



Informational Text
What Was the Milgram Experiment?
By Kendra Cherry



Informational Text
The Mesoamerican Influences Behind Namor from Black Panther: Wakanda Forever
By Nili Blanck

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Story: Determine characters, setting, plot, and theme in short stories
- Author's Craft: Setting, point of view, character, narrative techniques
- Compare Texts Across Genres
- Informational Texts: Use evidence to support central ideas

Use Language and Grammar

- Commas
- Context Clues

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Story Telling

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a short story
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

How can fantasy and various otherworldly elements of story help us explore important questions about society and our perceptions?

How Do We Feed the World?

Past generations used techniques to provide more sustainable ways of living, especially when it comes to food. Today, farmers are not only using these techniques, but are also using technology to sustain food growth. Throughout this unit, will look at how both the past and future can come together to build a more sustainable world.

Mentor Texts



Informational News Article

South Suburban Hydroponic Farm Owner Seeks to Democratize the Food System and Change the Narrative in the Ford Heights Neighborhood

By Darcel Rockett



Informational Text

In Mexico City, the Pandemic Revived Aztec-Era Island Farms

By Alejandra Borunda



Informational News Article

Farmers in India Cut Their Carbon Footprint with Trees and Solar Power

By Sibi Arasu



Informational Text

Can We Feed the World and Sustain the Planet?

By Jonathan A. Foley

Read Across Genres



Informational Text

What is Sustainable Agriculture?

By David N. Sundberg



Informational Text

What is the Difference Between Organic Farming and Sustainable Farming?

From Tillable



Multimedia

Farming for a Sustainable Future

From The Nature Conservancy



Poetry

Farmland

By Walter Lowenfels



Informational Text

Smart Farming, Precision Agriculture to Achieve a More Sustainable World

From Iberdrola

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Structure in Informational Texts: Interpret words and phrases, analyze sentences, paragraphs, and portions of the text
- Author's Craft: Understand point of view and purpose; describe structure in informational texts
- Compare Texts Across Genres to understand a topic through multiple perspectives

Use Language and Grammar

- Writing According to Style Manuals
- Figurative Language

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Pitch Deck Presentation

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a research paper
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

What roles do both looking to the past and to the future play in a sustainable world?

What Happens to a Dream Deferred?

Through close reading and writing, performance, and a final cause and effect essay, students will explore how families can influence the ways in which we approach our dreams. They will also discuss how the “American Dream” specifically shapes the desires of the family throughout the drama.

Mentor Texts



Drama

**A Raisin in the Sun:
Act I, Scene I**

By Lorraine Hansberry



Drama

**A Raisin in the Sun
Act I, Scene II**

By Lorraine Hansberry



Drama

**A Raisin in the Sun:
Act II, Scene I**

By Lorraine Hansberry



Drama

**A Raisin in the Sun:
Act II, Scene II**

By Lorraine Hansberry



Drama

**A Raisin in the Sun:
Act II, Scene III**

By Lorraine Hansberry



Drama

**A Raisin in the Sun:
Act III**

By Lorraine Hansberry

Read Across Genres



Drama Excerpt

**A Raisin in the Sun:
Act I, Scene I**

By Lorraine Hansberry



Multimedia

**A Raisin in the Sun (1961) |
Damn These Eggs!**



Multimedia

**Why are US cities
still so
segregated?**



Informational Text

**How Lorraine
Hansberry Turned Her
Family's Story Into A
Raisin in the Sun**

By Robert Loerzel



Informational Text

**The Long-Lasting
History of the
Great Migration**

By Isabel Wilkerson

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of a Drama: Determine how characters, setting, plot and theme evolve in a drama
- Author's Craft: Analyze the impact of author's choices and how playwrights develop character and theme in drama
- Compare interpretations and uses of drama across genres
- Informational Texts: Use evidence to understand context and impact

Use Language and Grammar

- Spelling
- Context Clues

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Performance

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a cause and effect essay
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Context Clues; Analyzing Word Choices

Essential Question

How can our families influence the ways in which we approach our dreams?

What is the Value of College?

With the seemingly high cost of college tuition, some students may ask if it's worth it to attend college. Throughout this unit, students will examine the value of college as well as how to explore college and career options to make the best postsecondary choice for themselves.

Mentor Texts



Multimedia

**Kerry Washington
Commencement
Speech**



Informational Text

**The Surprising Thing
Google Learned About
Its Employees—and
What It Means for
Today's Students**

By Valerie Strauss and Cathy
N. Davidson



Informational Text

**College Still Matters,
Now More Than Ever**

By Stanley Litow



Informational Text

**How Thinking
about 'Future You'
Can Build a
Happier Life**

By David Robson

Read Across Genres



Informational Text

**Does It Matter
Where You Go
to College?**

By Derek Thompson



Opinion

**It Doesn't
Matter Where
You Go to
College**

By Michael Bernick



Informational Text

**How to Choose a
College**

From Best Colleges



Extension Activity

**Career Exploration
for High School
Students—3 Steps to
Follow**

By Paige Buttels



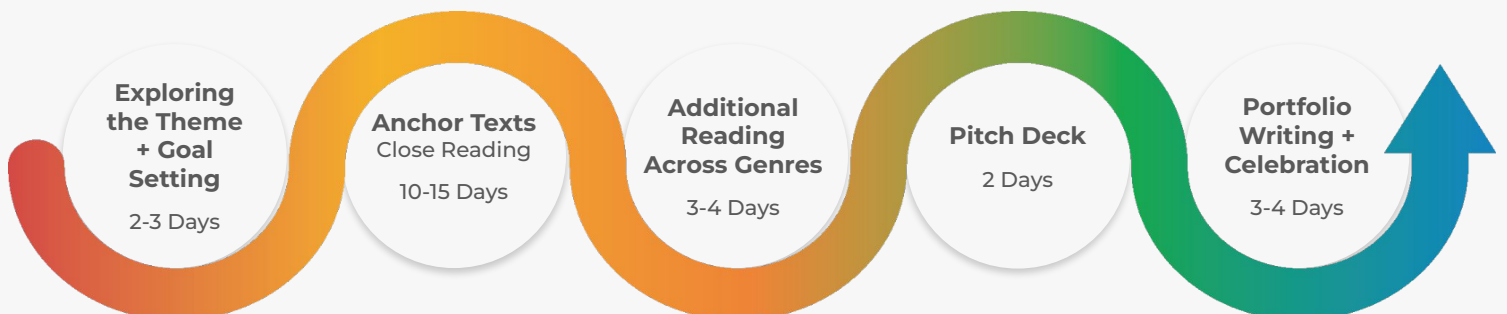
Extension Activity

BLS Search

By ThinkCERCA Staff

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Informational Text: Use evidence and central ideas from a variety of texts
- Author's Craft: Analyze how text features and connections within informational texts help develop central ideas
- Develop a robust understanding of the postsecondary process
- Extensions: Engage in activities to support postsecondary planning

Use Language and Grammar

- Revising for Style and Word Choice
- Figurative Language

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Panel Discussion

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write postsecondary plans
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

What factors should one consider in determining the path for their postsecondary life?

How Do Ancient and Sacred Texts Speak to Us?

In this unit, students will explore collections of sacred texts, myths, contemporary retellings, and science fiction as they explore the concepts of the power of words and stories focused on the theme of creation.

Mentor Texts



Creation Stories
Text Set: Creation Stories Collection
 From Genesis 1, James Weldon Johnson, a Mayan Creation Story, and Joseph Bruchac and Michael Caduto



Greek Mythology and Science Fiction
Text Set: Prometheus by Josephine Preston Peabody
 and
Frankenstein, Chapter V by Mary Shelley



Short Story
And of Clay We are Created
 By Isabel Allende



Short Story
The Last Curiosity
 By Lucy Tan

Read Across Genres



Poetry
Dear Dr. Frankenstein
 By Jericho Brown



Poetry
Tell Me a Story
 By Robert Penn Warren



Multimedia
Informal Performance Activity



Short Story
The Fifth Story
 by Clarice Lispector



Short Story
What I Have Been Doing Lately
 by Jamaica Kincaid

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Informational Text: Analyze connections within informational texts
- Author's Craft: Analyze how various genres of literature and informational texts draw from other sources
- Develop a robust understanding of aspects of various literary forms and genres
- Extensions: Engage in informal research of a variety of myths and tales from across the globe

Use Language and Grammar

- Roots and Affixes
- Words that Capture Relationships
- Sentence Structure
- Revising for Clarity and Organization

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Socratic Discussion

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a Comparative Analysis
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Analyzing Verbs in Writing Prompts

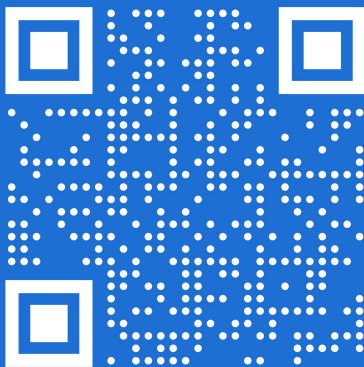
Essential Question

Why is the sacred concept of creation related to the concept of storytelling and art?

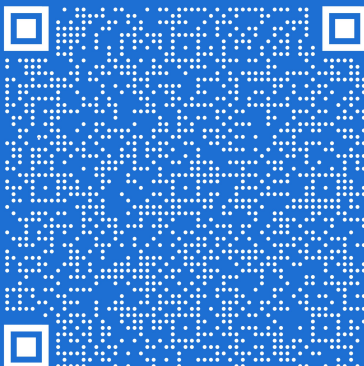
Next Steps

Ready to learn more about our Core ELA?

We'd love to partner and pilot Core with you! Scan the QR codes below to learn more or schedule a demo of Core ELA!



Learn More



Schedule a Demo