

Back-to-School 2026:

What's New to Power
Teaching and Learning



Presenter



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Assignment Preferences

Customize each assignment to match your instructional goals with flexible settings for writing feedback, immersive reader, and answer visibility.

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Last step! Set your preferences" for an assignment named "Narrative: Off the Shelf" (2nd). It features four toggle switches for different settings, all of which are currently turned on. The settings are: Auto Score, Automated Feedback, Show Correct Answer, and Immersive Reader. At the bottom of the dialog are "Back" and "Assign" buttons. The background of the slide shows a blurred view of the "Writing" interface.

Setting	Status
Auto Score	On
Automated Feedback	On
Show Correct Answer	On
Immersive Reader	On

Turn Auto Scoring for writing **On or Off**

Turn Automated Feedback **On or Off**

Show or Hide Correct Answers after students complete the Check step

Enable or Disable Immersive Reader for individual assignments

Longer Works & Units Tab

CERCA NOW

Kickstart literacy instruction with ready-to-use lesson sets that build strong reading, writing, and discussion routines.

Core ELAR Courses Writing Across Curriculum Featured Skill Lessons Reading Practice **Longer Works & Units** Custom Lessons Browse

Longer Works & Units

Search Units by keyword, standards...

Grade Level Subject

New
Your Unit Title Here

***New* - Your Unit Title... Here**
Ask your partnerships representative... about our custom units!

GRADES 3-12

10th Grade CERCA Now: An Introduction...
GRADE 10

6th Grade: An Introduction to...
GRADE 6

7th Grade: An Introduction to...
GRADE 7

3rd Grade: An Introduction to Opinion Writing

Assign Unit

MODULE 1
Introducing CERCA for Opinion Writing
Assign Module

MODULE 2
Developing an Introduction and Opinion Statement
Assign Module

GRADES 6-8 GRADES 9-10

CERCA Now! Argumentative

Targeted, ready-to-teach text sets designed to strengthen argumentative writing

UNIT 1: INTRODUCING CERCA FOR ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING

8th Grade CERCA Now: An Introduction to Argumentative Writing

 Unit At-a-Glance

Assign Unit

MODULE 1

Introducing Argumentative Writing

Assign Module >

MODULE 2

Developing an Introduction and Claim

Assign Module >

View the **CERCA Now** lessons at Longer Works Tab Click [here!](#)

The CERCA Framework: An Introduction to Argumentative Writing

Direct Instruction

Unit 1: Introducing CERCA for Argumentative Writing
An Introduction: What is CERCA?
The Purpose of Arguments
Organizing Arguments
Who Should Control Social Media?

Direct Instruction

Unit 2: Developing an Introduction and Claim
Summary in Arguments
Introductions in Arguments
Claims
What Role Should the Government Play in Regulating Health?

Direct Instruction

Unit 3: Supporting Your Argument
Supporting Arguments with Reasons
Supporting Claims with Evidence
Evaluating Evidence
Counterarguments
What evidence and reasoning has the Supreme Court used to limit and protect free speech?

Rolling Out the CERCA Framework

Module Design

Direct Instruction **Scaffolded Practice** **Close Reading and Writing**

2-3 Lessons (20 min each) **Efficient Student Practice Activities: Pairs with Each Direct Instruction** **Applied Practice: Interactive Claim Writing and Writing**

Launching the CERCA Framework in Your School or District

	Teacher Guide
1. Introducing Argumentative Writing	Teacher Guide
2. Developing an Introduction and Claim	Jan 2026 Release
3. Supporting Your Argument	Jan 2026 Release
4. Strengthening Your Argument	Jan 2026 Release
5. Creating Coherence in Arguments	Jan 2026 Release
6. Appealing to Your Audience	Jan 2026 Release

THE CERCA

15

Courses Tab

Introduction to Writing Across Genres

The screenshot displays the Edmentum platform's navigation bar with icons for Core ELAR, **Courses** (highlighted with an orange circle), Writing Across Curriculum, Library, Assessments, Reports, and Help Center. Below the navigation bar, the 'Courses' section is active, showing a list of courses. A large orange arrow points from the 'Courses' tab to a detailed view of the '3rd Grade - Introduction to Writing Across Genres' course.

Course Details:

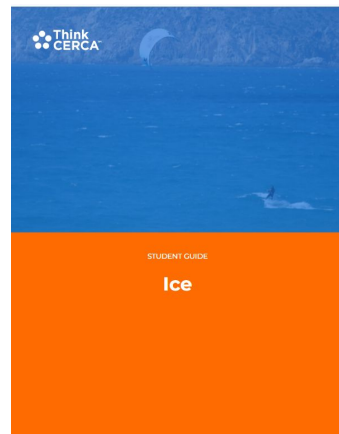
- Course Title:** 3rd Grade - Introduction to Writing Across Genres
- Overview of Program:** A button to view the program overview.
- Units:**
 - UNIT 1: INTRODUCING CERCA FOR NARRATIVE WRITING**
3rd Grade: An Introduction to Narrative Writing [Assign Unit]
 - UNIT 2: INTRODUCING CERCA FOR OPINION WRITING**
3rd Grade: An Introduction to Opinion Writing [Assign Unit]
 - UNIT 3: INTRODUCING CERCA FOR EXPOSITORY/INFORMATIONAL WRITING**
3rd Grade: An Introduction to Expository/Informational Writing [Assign Unit]

Introduction to Writing Across Genres

Everything you need to launch students successfully. Sequenced lessons with classroom-ready resources designed to help students build confidence with the CERCA Framework from the very beginning.



Teacher Guidance
Printable Student Guides
Ready-to-use **Class Presentation Decks**
Additional instructional resources to support implementation!



View Student Pre-writing in Grading

See students' thinking process alongside their writing without leaving the grading experience.

Demo 26-27 / Essential - America's Clean Water Crisis Goes Far Beyond... / Feedback With Score Given ▾ / Student1, HSdemo ▾

[Return to Student ▾](#)

HS HSdemo Student1 Growth Focus: Coherence ▾

Feedback Given: 3/4

How does the author use descriptive details and anecdotes to appeal to the audience in this argument for safe water access?

The author reveals that not everyone has access to clean water. Personal anecdotes drive home the emotional significance of the topic. Ultimately, the author is arguing for universal access to clean, safe water.

Author Justin Worland uses descriptive details and anecdotes in order to explain the effects of toxic water on individuals and communities in this argument for safer water access.

The anecdotes are especially powerful in helping the reader understand the urgency of the water crisis.

For example, he discusses a 2017 study shows that over a third of residents have hookworm.

This shows that even basic activities like walking barefoot are dangerous with toxic water.

Pre-writing ☒

Teachers can now view student pre-writing directly from the grading view by toggling **Pre-writing** on or off.

When enabled, you'll see students' responses to:

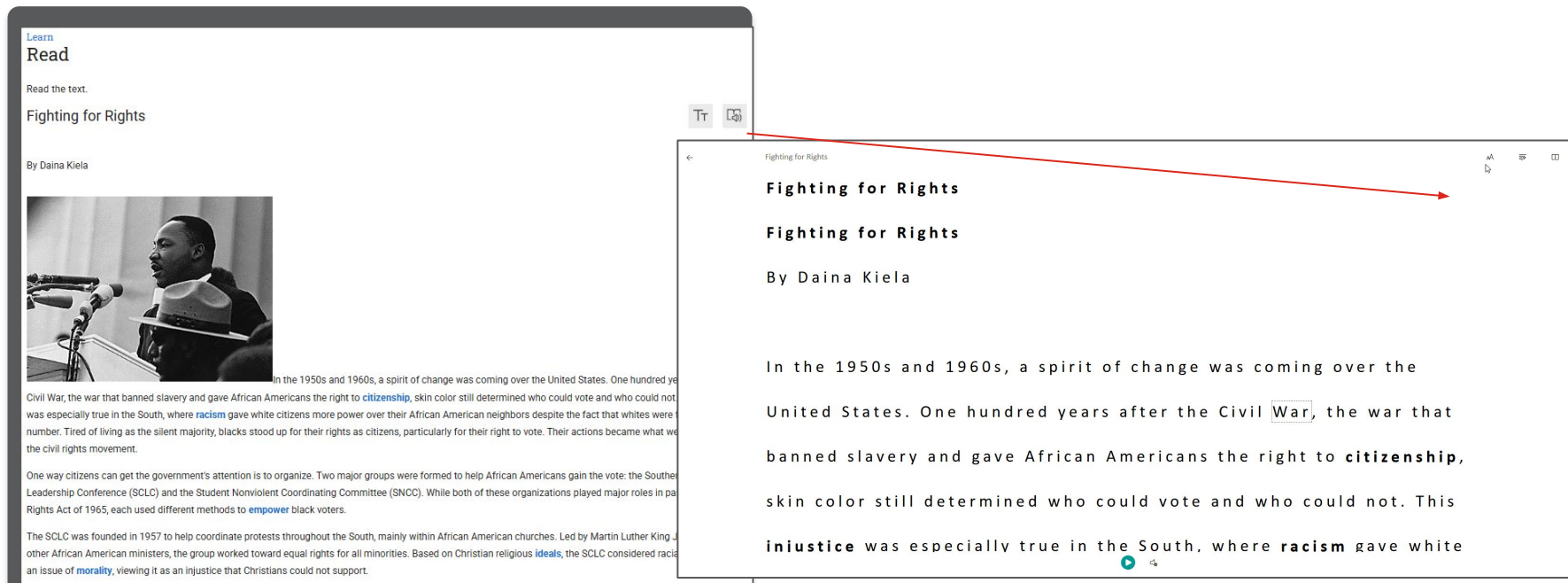
- **Connect**
- **Summarize**
- **Develop**

[Previous: HSdemo Student3](#)

[Next: HSdemo Student2](#)

Immersive Reader Remembers Settings

Set it Once, Remembered Next Time!



The image shows two side-by-side windows of the Immersive Reader interface. The left window is the initial state, showing a 'Learn' tab and a 'Read' tab. The right window shows the same content but with a red arrow pointing from the 'Read' tab in the left window to the 'Read' tab in the right window, indicating that the settings are remembered.

Left Window (Initial State):

- Tab: **Learn**
- Section: **Read**
- Text: Read the text.
- Title: **Fighting for Rights**
- Author: By Daina Kiela
- Image: A black and white photo of Martin Luther King Jr. speaking at a podium.
- Text: In the 1950s and 1960s, a spirit of change was coming over the United States. One hundred years after the Civil War, the war that banned slavery and gave African Americans the right to **citizenship**, skin color still determined who could vote and who could not. Tired of living as the silent majority, blacks stood up for their rights as citizens, particularly for their right to vote. Their actions became what we call the civil rights movement.
- Text: One way citizens can get the government's attention is to organize. Two major groups were formed to help African Americans gain the vote: the Southern Leadership Conference (SLC) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). While both of these organizations played major roles in the Civil Rights Act of 1965, each used different methods to **empower** black voters.
- Text: The SCLC was founded in 1957 to help coordinate protests throughout the South, mainly within African American churches. Led by Martin Luther King Jr. and other African American ministers, the group worked toward equal rights for all minorities. Based on Christian religious **ideals**, the SCLC considered racial inequality an issue of **morality**, viewing it as an injustice that Christians could not support.

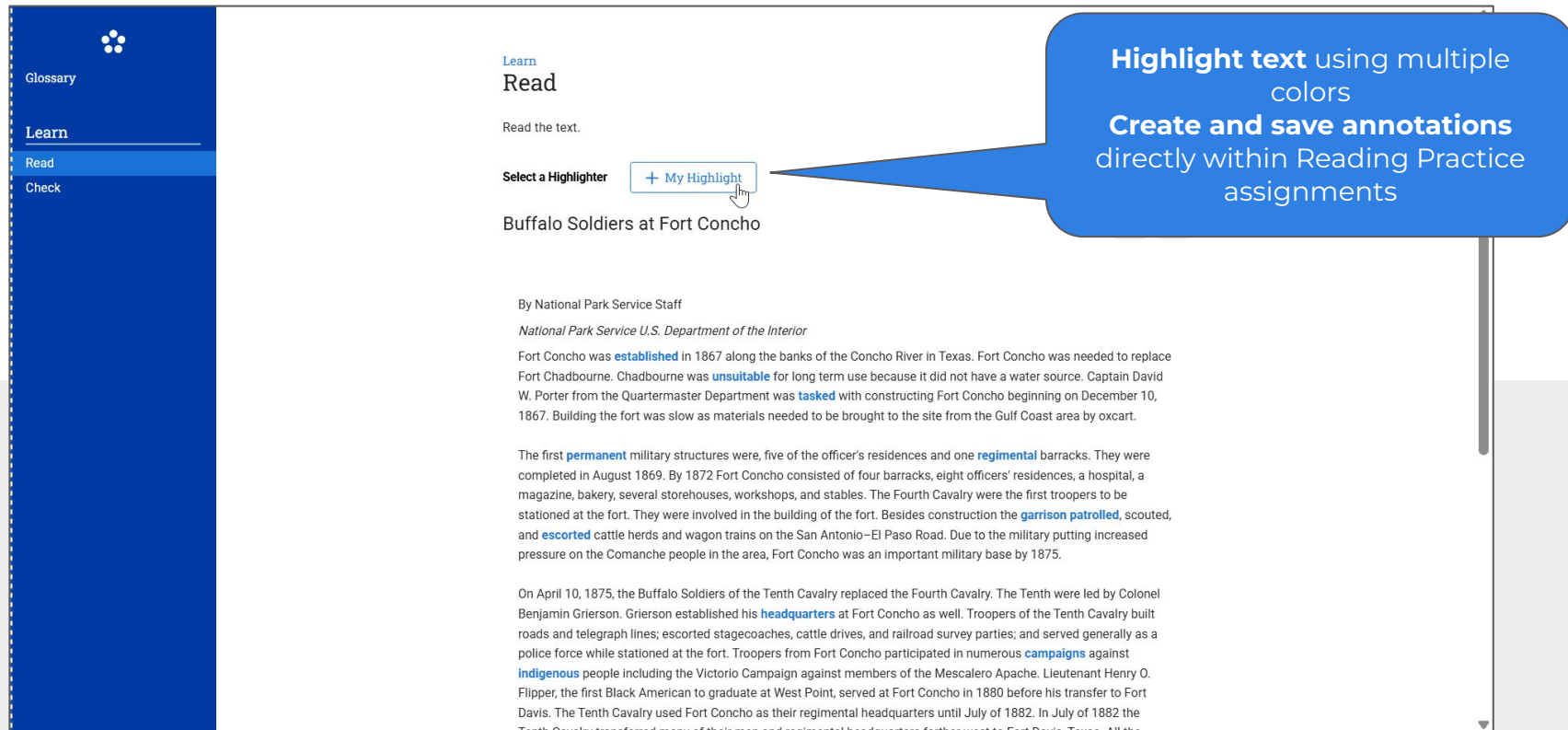
Right Window (Remembered State):

- Tab: **Read**
- Title: **Fighting for Rights**
- Author: By Daina Kiela
- Text: In the 1950s and 1960s, a spirit of change was coming over the United States. One hundred years after the Civil War, the war that banned slavery and gave African Americans the right to **citizenship**, skin color still determined who could vote and who could not. This **injustice** was especially true in the South, where **racism** gave white

When students select a language or change a setting in Immersive Reader, their choices are now **remembered between sessions**, so the next time they open Immersive Reader, their preferences are ready to go!

Highlighting & Annotations in Reading Practice

Powerful tools to actively engage with texts and strengthen reading comprehension.



Highlight text using multiple colors
Create and save annotations directly within Reading Practice assignments

[Learn](#)
Read
[Check](#)

Read the text.

Select a Highlighter [+ My Highlight](#)

Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Concho

By National Park Service Staff
National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Concho was **established** in 1867 along the banks of the Concho River in Texas. Fort Concho was needed to replace Fort Chadbourne. Chadbourne was **unsuitable** for long term use because it did not have a water source. Captain David W. Porter from the Quartermaster Department was **tasked** with constructing Fort Concho beginning on December 10, 1867. Building the fort was slow as materials needed to be brought to the site from the Gulf Coast area by oxcart.

The first **permanent** military structures were, five of the officer's residences and one **regimental** barracks. They were completed in August 1869. By 1872 Fort Concho consisted of four barracks, eight officers' residences, a hospital, a magazine, bakery, several storehouses, workshops, and stables. The Fourth Cavalry were the first troopers to be stationed at the fort. They were involved in the building of the fort. Besides construction the **garrison patrolled**, scouted, and **escorted** cattle herds and wagon trains on the San Antonio–El Paso Road. Due to the military putting increased pressure on the Comanche people in the area, Fort Concho was an important military base by 1875.

On April 10, 1875, the Buffalo Soldiers of the Tenth Cavalry replaced the Fourth Cavalry. The Tenth were led by Colonel Benjamin Grierson. Grierson established his **headquarters** at Fort Concho as well. Troopers of the Tenth Cavalry built roads and telegraph lines; escorted stagecoaches, cattle drives, and railroad survey parties; and served generally as a police force while stationed at the fort. Troopers from Fort Concho participated in numerous **campaigns** against **indigenous** people including the Victorio Campaign against members of the Mescalero Apache. Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper, the first Black American to graduate at West Point, served at Fort Concho in 1880 before his transfer to Fort Davis. The Tenth Cavalry used Fort Concho as their regimental headquarters until July of 1882. In July of 1882 the Tenth Cavalry transferred many of their men and regimental headquarters farther west to Fort Davis, Texas. All the

Class Planner and Pacing Calculator

Plan instruction with built-in pacing, assessment, and scheduling tools.

The image shows two overlapping screenshots of the 'Class Planner and Pacing Calculator' tool. The background screenshot displays a 'Grade 7 Unit Planning Calculators and Assessment Blueprint' with a table of unit planning. The foreground screenshot shows the 'Class Planner and Pacing Calculator' interface, which includes a title, a subtitle 'Adjust Times Based On Your Student's Needs and Your Additions and Subtractions!', a 'View Best Practices' link, and a table of activities. A red arrow points from the 'Find the Planning Tools' callout to the 'Calculator' button in the foreground screenshot.

Step	Strand	Time	Modality	Modality	
5	Smart Goals	W	20	Individual	Offline
6	Analyze the Images	S,W	10	Individual	Offline
7	Analyze the Quote	S,W	5	Small Group/Whole Class	Offline
8	Take Poll	S	5	Small Group/Whole Class	Offline
9	Explore Key Concepts	W,S	5	Individual + Collaborative	Offline
10	Preview Essential Question	P	5	Individual	Offline
11	Direct Instruction	W,R	20	Individual	Online
12	Read the Rubric	R,W	10	Individual + Collaborative	Offline
13	Total Minutes (Automatically Recalculates)		80		Do not edit

Find the Planning Tools

- CORE Resources → Unit Planning Tool
- Open the **Planning Tool, Pacing Calculator, or Assessment Blueprint**
- Select the **Unit** tab
- Scroll down and click **Calculator**
- Choose **Open** and then **Make a Copy** to customize the pacing for your instructional calendar.

The image shows a document titled 'THINKCERCA'S APPROACH Comprehensive Scope and Sequence and Planning Guidance'. It includes a subtitle 'Increasing Complexity within and Across Units' and a paragraph about making planning decisions. A red box highlights a link to the 'Grade 7, Planning Tool, Pacing Calculator, and Assessment Blueprint'. Below this are several other links. At the bottom, there is a small table with two columns: 'Growth Playbook: Places for Blended Learning' and 'Blended Learning and Young Adult Success'. The document is dated 2023.

THINKCERCA'S APPROACH

Comprehensive Scope and Sequence and Planning Guidance

Increasing Complexity within and Across Units

Make planning decisions based on your schedule, your program, and your students' needs. Use the comprehensive planning tools to ensure coverage and accelerate learning.

→ [Grade 7, Planning Tool, Pacing Calculator, and Assessment Blueprint](#) (See [State-Specific](#))

→ [Cross-Linguistic Transfer & Contrastive Analysis Chart](#)

→ [See the comprehensive Scope and Sequence here](#)

→ [State Standards Crosswalks](#)

→ [See the Text Complexity Analysis](#)

→ [Explore the Class Planning Tool for Task-specific timing guidance](#)

Growth Playbook: Places for Blended Learning

Blended Learning and Young Adult Success

Plan Scaffolding Approaches and

3

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Secure Writing with Safe Exam Browser (SEB)

Lock students into ThinkCERCA for a secure writing experience!

The screenshot shows the 'Essential - Amigo Brothers' lesson page. A red arrow points to the gear icon next to the lesson title. A dropdown menu is open, showing options like 'Copy Assignment Links', 'Add More Students', and 'Download SEB File'. The 'Download SEB File' option is circled in red. Below the menu is a table of students with their status.

Name	Status
Barry Allen	Not Started
Bruce Banner	Not Started
James Barnes	Not Started
Billy Batson	Not Started

The screenshot shows a Help Center article titled 'How to lock down the browser in Windows, MacOS and iOS'. The article provides instructions on setting up SEB. A blue callout box points to the article, stating that complete setup instructions are available in the ThinkCERCA Help Center.

Help Center > Product Support > Lock Browser

How to lock down the browser in Windows, MacOS and iOS

Set-Up Guide for Safe Exam Browser (SEB) with ThinkCERCA

This guide walks administrators through...

Safe Exam Browser (SEB) with ThinkCERCA supports SEB to lock down assessments in a secure, locked browser. When students launch an assessment through SEB, their browser is locked down, and they cannot switch tabs, take screenshots, or access outside websites.

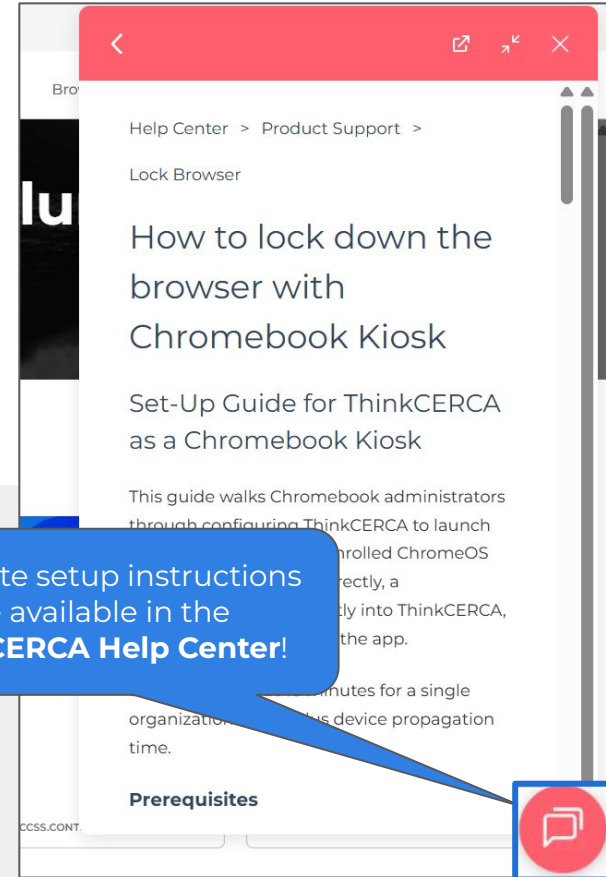
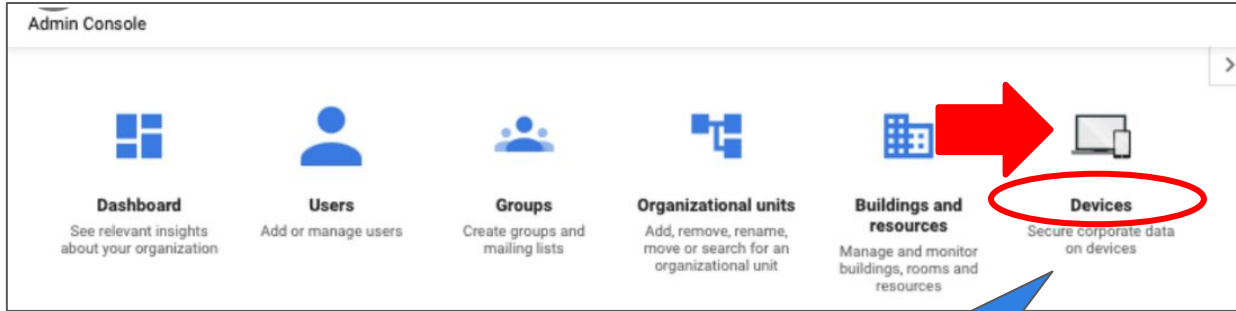
What is Safe Exam Browser

- Install **Safe Exam Browser (SEB)** on student devices (Windows, Mac, or iPad).
- Download the **.seb configuration file** from ThinkCERCA assigned lesson.
- Share the file with students.
- Students **double-click the .seb file** to launch the secure testing session.
- When students submit their assessment, **SEB closes automatically**, ending the lockdown session.

Complete setup instructions are available in the **ThinkCERCA Help Center!**

Secure Writing with Chromebook Kiosk Mode

Lock students into ThinkCERCA for a secure writing experience!



- Configure **ThinkCERCA Kiosk Mode** in the **Google Admin Console**.
- Assign the kiosk app to enrolled **Chromebooks**.
- Students launch directly into **ThinkCERCA** and sign in with their existing credentials.
- ChromeOS shortcuts and access to other apps and websites are disabled during testing.
- We recommend disabling **screenshots, printing, and external storage** for additional security.

Complete setup instructions are available in the **ThinkCERCA Help Center!**



Year in Review 2025-2026

[Click here](#) to review
additional features released
last year!

Get Real-Time Support When You Need It

Need Help Fast? Try Our Support Chat

Get real-time support through **ThinkCERCA Support Chat**

The screenshot shows the ThinkCERCA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with icons for Classes, Library, Assessments, Reports, and Help Center. Below this, there are tabs for Core ELAR, Courses, and Writing Across Curriculum. The main content area features a 'Lesson Spotlight' section with three cards: 'Earth Day', 'Animal Migration', and 'Women's History Month, 2025'. A 'Theme Collection' section is at the bottom with categories like 'ELA CERCA Slides', 'Social Responsibility', 'Environment and Nature', 'Culture', and 'Technology & Society'. Three callout boxes provide instructions on how to use the support chat:

- Step 1:** Click the chat icon (a red speech bubble icon with a white arrow) located in the bottom right corner of the page.
- Step 2:** Click the arrow to see both the **chat** and new **"help"** feature. This points to a red button labeled 'Help' in the bottom right corner of the search results dropdown.
- Step 3:** For **on-demand support** - type a topic in the search bar and click on the item below to explore! This points to the search bar at the top of the search results dropdown.

The search results dropdown shows a list of topics related to 'graphic organizers', including 'Graphic Organizers to Support Close Reading, Effective Writing, and Critical Thinking', 'Lesson Supports: Close Reading & Writing Modules', 'Implementing a Writing Lesson with Engagement Strategies', 'Approach to Supporting Multilingual English Language Learners', 'Lesson Supports for Striving Readers', 'Best Practices and Recommended Teacher Script for Benchmarks', and 'What is the Difference Between Reason and Reasoning?'. At the bottom of the dropdown, there are two buttons: 'Chat' and 'Help'.



More Features Coming Soon!