

Instructional Learning Series

Grade 7—Read Informational Texts Playlist

The Digital Library Instructional Learning Series links Smarter Balanced Digital Library resources with content from Interim Assessment Blocks. The Digital Library resources on this list are intended to supplement a teacher’s core curriculum and may not address every standard assessed by the Grade 7—Read Informational Texts Interim Assessment Block. For each resource on this list, a brief description is provided along with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) of focus and estimated instructional time. Many of the formative assessment practices featured in these resources can be used across grades and content areas.

Learning Goals


Students understand how to:






- integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media types to address a question or solve a problem.
- determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.
- cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly and inferences drawn from the text.
- gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources and assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the specific task, purpose, and audience.

Success Criteria

Students can:

- identify the meaning of a word or phrase based on the context in which it is used.
- determine a text’s central idea and, using multiple references, draw conclusions about the text using the evidence to support those conclusions.
- articulate how information reveals the author’s point of view or purpose across multiple texts.
- cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Title	Resource Overview
<p>Rhetorical Reading Review—A Close Look at Author, Text, and Audience </p> <p>CCSS of focus: RI.7.1, RI.7.2, RI.7.3, RI.7.8</p> <p>Estimated Instructional Time: 120 min.</p>	<p>This resource includes a variety of tools designed to develop rhetorical reading and research skills. It provides detailed lesson plans and an accompanying video of the teacher implementing all four attributes of the formative assessment process. This resource functions as an adaptable template and can be used in conjunction with a variety of texts in multiple contexts to engage students in an in-depth analysis of the content.</p>

<p>Use Multiple Informational Text to Write an Argument About Education </p> <p>CCSS of focus: RI.7.2, W.7.1</p> <p>Estimated Instructional Time: 180 min.</p>	<p>This resource includes a developed lesson plan that provides students with informational texts addressing the purpose of education. Through close reading, group discussion, and textual analysis activities, students determine a central idea presented across texts and use evidence from those texts to develop claims that support their conclusions. The lesson plans contain pictures which are intended to strengthen the instructor’s ability to elicit evidence from students.</p>
<p>Judging the Evidence </p> <p>CCSS of focus: RI.7.8</p> <p>Estimated Instructional Time: 60 min.</p>	<p>This resource includes a lesson plan for evaluating claims and arguments in informational texts. The materials provide model texts, along with links to additional resources, and an adaptable graphic organizer for students to record and evaluate source evidence in order to discern an author’s claim(s). Working from individually- and collaboratively-determined conclusions, students evaluate the soundness, relevancy, and thoroughness of the evidence in order to support their completed analyses.</p>
<p>Digging for Understanding: An Adventure in Connecting Current Events </p> <p>CCSS of focus: RI.7.1, RI.7.4, RI.7.6</p> <p>Estimated Instructional Time: 120 min.</p>	<p>This resource includes a multi-step lesson plan that guides students through activities to develop a comprehensive understanding of a text and the current event it features. The materials allow students to address the issues independently and at a pace conducive to their reading, and also provides a rubric to evaluate a student’s investigation of the material. The resources focus on analyzing the presentation of a current event and are designed to promote the understanding of the issues, regions, and implications for the sources cited in the texts.</p>
<p>Exploring the Development of the Central Ideas in a Churchill Speech </p> <p>CCSS of focus: RI.7.1, RI.7.2, L.7.4, L.7.4a</p> <p>Estimated Instructional Time: 120 min.</p>	<p>This resource includes detailed lesson plans and graphic organizers intended to support student exploration and analysis of Winston Churchill’s speech, “Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat.” Central to the lesson is developing the use of context clues to determine word meaning as well as citing evidence to support student understanding of the ways authors develop their central ideas.</p>
<p>Nature by Design: Moving from Summative to Formative Assessment </p> <p>CCSS of focus: RST.6-8.2</p> <p>Estimated Instructional Time: 60 min.</p>	<p>This resource includes excerpt text and questions intended for use as a summative assessment. Modifications to the original activity incorporate attributes of the formative assessment process and suggest modifications in instructional methodology to promote peer-to-peer interaction and writing (for which a rubric is included). The original summative assessment, response key, distractor rationales, and analysis of the text are also provided.</p>