



Reclaiming the Classroom

Session Previews

Colorado Language Arts Society
2016 Regional Fall Conference

Co-sponsored by the Metro State NCTE Student Affiliate

Using Book Clubs to Improve Reading Skills and Increase Motivation

Ben Bleckley, Lake International School

Discover resources to help select texts, get funds for purchasing them, and teaching strategies that help prepare all students for productive, small group discussions. BYOD.

ELA and Generation Z: Blending the Canon, Modern Fiction, and the New Voices Shaping Their World

Jocelyn A. Chadwick, Harvard Graduate School of Education/NCTE

This interactive session, relying on conversation, questions, narratives from both students and ELA teachers, will explore concretely how we can blend canonical literature and modern fiction, along with film, television, and the music of Beyoncé, Dylan, and others successfully. The session will explore why we should entertain this approach as a viable instructional pathway to achieve critical life-long literacy.

Teaching from a Place of Love and Empathy

Julia Torres, Zach Serrano, Randall Duval, and Arnetta Koger, DCIS at Montbello

Looking to share your experiences regarding engaging your students by teaching from a place of love and empathy? Please join us for a panel and roundtable discussions to motivate and energize you.

Informational Texts: Double the Non-Fiction, Half the Time

Jamie Hedlun, Mead HS; Nichole Rue, Mead HS; Erin Roe, Erie HS; Johanna Zablocki, Northfield HS

Seasoned teachers will present a variety of lesson plans that explore the power of choice and non-fiction in the English classroom.

Mixing Pop Culture and the Classics - The Sweet and Bitter using Beyonce's "Lemonade"

Heather Wheat, Julia Torres, and Jenn Prosser, Denver Public Schools

Intended Audience : High school (grades 9-12)

Beyonce's "Lemonade" changed the face of visual art. Help create curriculum that will inspire students to do the same.

Stop Grading: Alternatives to Traditional Grading to Reclaim Your Classroom as Space for Your Students as Learners Instead of Point Collectors

Sarah M. Zerwin, Paul Bursiek, and Claire-Maria Broaddus, Fairview High School

Grading impedes authentic reading and writing work in classrooms. We suggest more feedback, more student involvement in assessment, and a re-imagined gradebook. No more points!

Surviving and Loving Teaching: Reclaiming a Healthy, Sustainable Life, Inside and Outside of the Classroom

Jay Stott, Tracy Brennan, and Jaime Rodrigues, Fairview High School

Teaching is extremely challenging--full of conflicting demands. We have worked to make the job more sustainable to the benefit of our students and ourselves.

Hard to Learn, Hard to Teach: Using Problem-Based Strategies in the Classroom

Pam Coke, Colorado State University, and Cheryl Kula, St. John the Evangelist Catholic School

Do you and your students struggle with a concept that is difficult to teach and learn? Experience how to work through issues using problem-based learning.

Strong Brains, Successful Students

Alice L. Smith, Northglenn High School STEM and Denver Writing Project

What do all students need to know about their brains? And why should all teachers be responsible for teaching basic neuroscience? During this interactive and engaging session, teachers will participate in four lessons that help teach students about their brains and learning.

What's New in YA?

Karen Hartman, Colorado Writing Project, and Sheila Kaehny, Westlake Middle School

Come join us as we share new titles in young adult lit that will engage your students and help them grow as readers.

Intercultural Sensitivity in the Middle School Language Arts Classroom

Jenna Martin, Colorado State University

Participants will explore a research-based conceptual model for understanding how youth develop intercultural sensitivity and acquire tools for building intercultural sensitivity in their classroom.

Successfully Building a Culture of Reading: A High School Case Study

Jessica Keigan and Sara Poinier, Horizon High School

This interactive session will share ideas about why and how can create a culture of reading in their schools.

Sound Listening: Practical Strategies for Effective Listening K-12

Charles Fischer and Danny Combs, Aspen Academy

This interactive workshop will demonstrate practical strategies and provide useful handouts for teachers to improve the listening skills of their students.

Giving your students *A Place to Stand*: Using the poetry of Jimmy Santiago Baca to increase engagement

Gloria Eastman, Micha Richie, Marrena Matinez, Kristina Harrison, Gabriel Gutierrez, and Cass TaFoya-Chavez, Metropolitan State University of Denver

This panel will provide a variety of mini-lessons that employ Baca's poetry to engage student interest in reading and relating to literature that is commonly taught in secondary language arts classes

What I Wish I'd Known as a New Teacher

Kathy Deakin, Metropolitan State University of Denver; CJ Smith, MLK Early College; Jen Malinowski, Aurora Central HS; Mariah Rupp, Prairie View MS

We plan, we anticipate, and sometimes we fail. This panel will present a retrospective look at teaching while providing resources for navigating the profession.

The Landscape of Literary Nonfiction: A Map of Teaching Strategies

Doug Hesse, University of Denver

Increased attention to nonfiction texts has opened a wide textual territory in English and language arts classrooms. One subcategory, literary nonfiction, is particularly valuable to teachers because it overlaps in techniques and effects with more "traditional" literary texts. This talk will characterize a few kinds of literary nonfiction—memoirs, personal essays, profiles, travel writings, and so on—and offer some teaching strategies and classroom activities.