

Is Your District

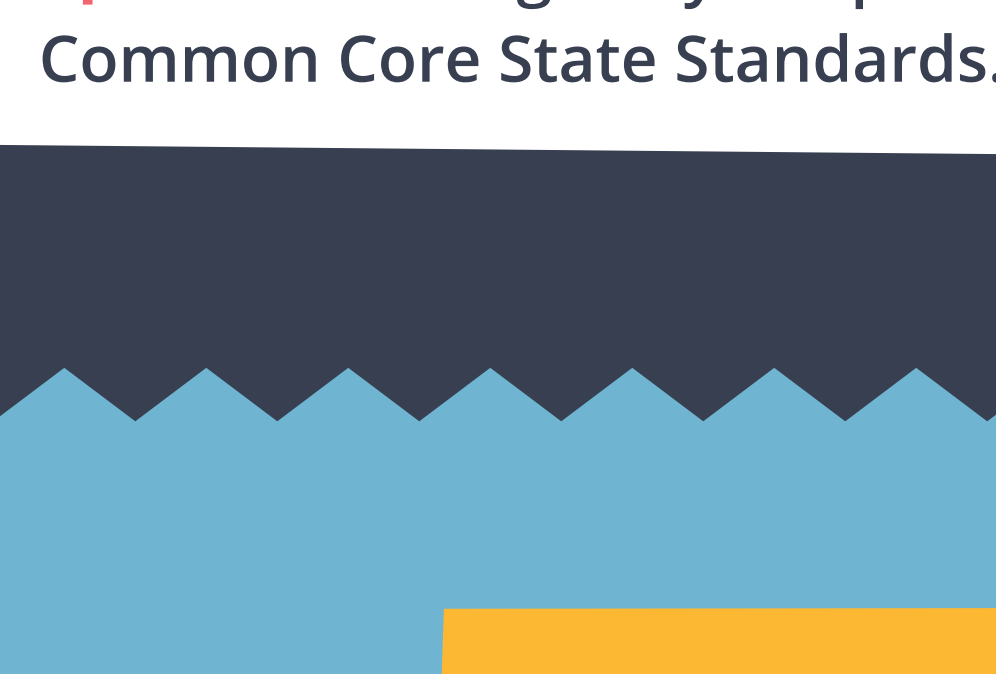
Keeping Up with New Writing Standards?

Studies show that **key writing standards** are missing from many ELA classrooms.

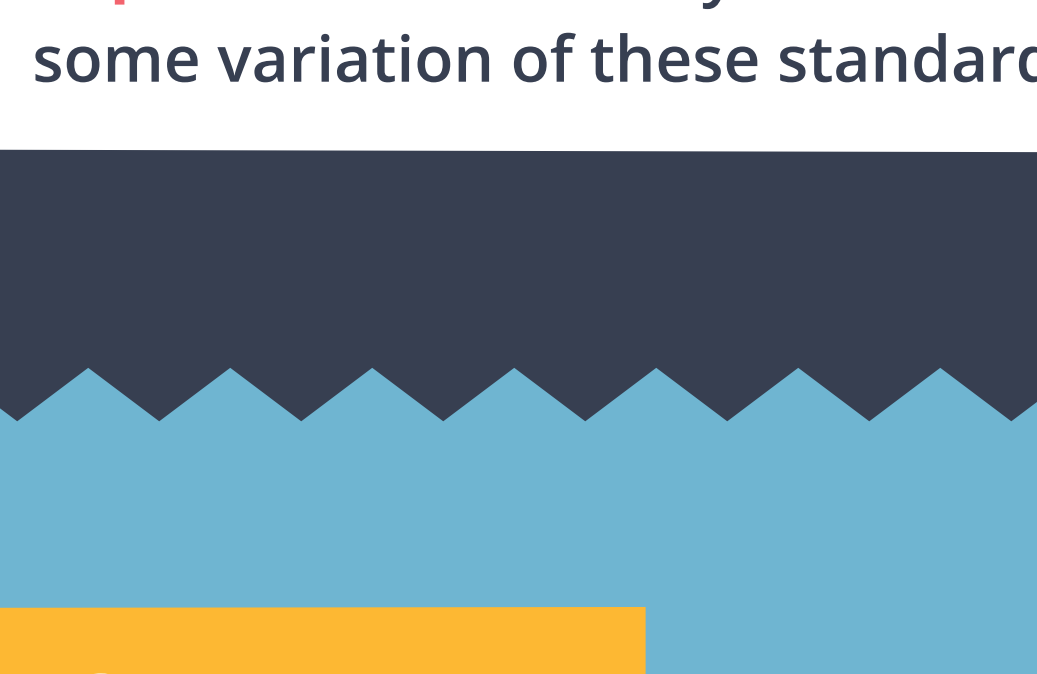
Here's what your district needs to know.

In the past 10 years...

nearly **every state** has adopted rigorous new writing standards:



46 states originally adopted Common Core State Standards.



41 states currently adhere to some variation of these standards.

In 2016...

The Education Trust conducted a **nationwide analysis** of middle school ELA assignments using the following criteria:

Centrality of Text

- Students write in response to a text
- Students cite texts throughout their writing

Alignment with the Common Core

- Students practice grade level reading and writing standards

Cognitive Challenge

- Students reach higher levels of thinking
- Students compose a piece of complex writing

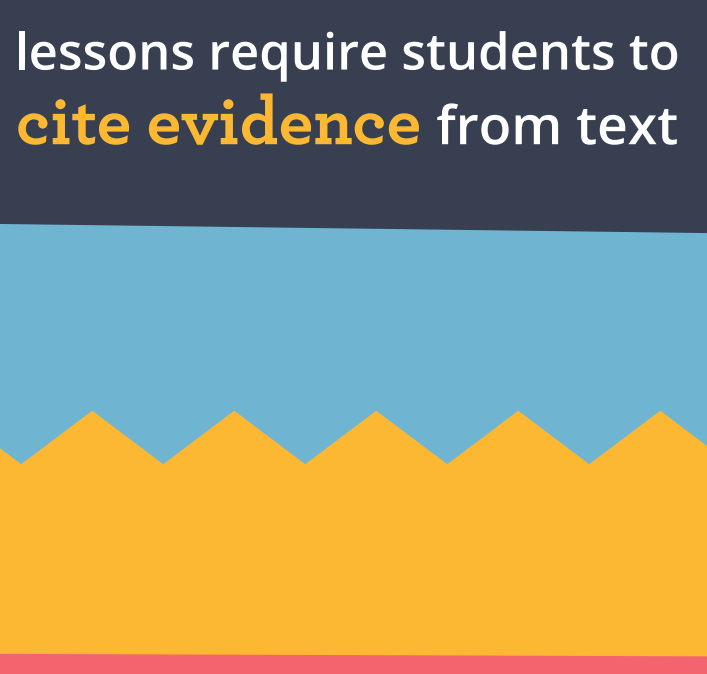
Motivation and Engagement

- Students engage with activities that are relevant to their interests
- Students exercise choice and voice

Researchers found that most middle school ELA lessons **fall short** of established writing standards.



of middle school ELA lessons align to **grade level standards**



of middle school ELA lessons require students to **cite evidence** from text



of middle school ELA lessons are linked to a piece of **extended writing**

While writing is absent in many classrooms...

it's one of the **most important skills** for success after graduation:

80%

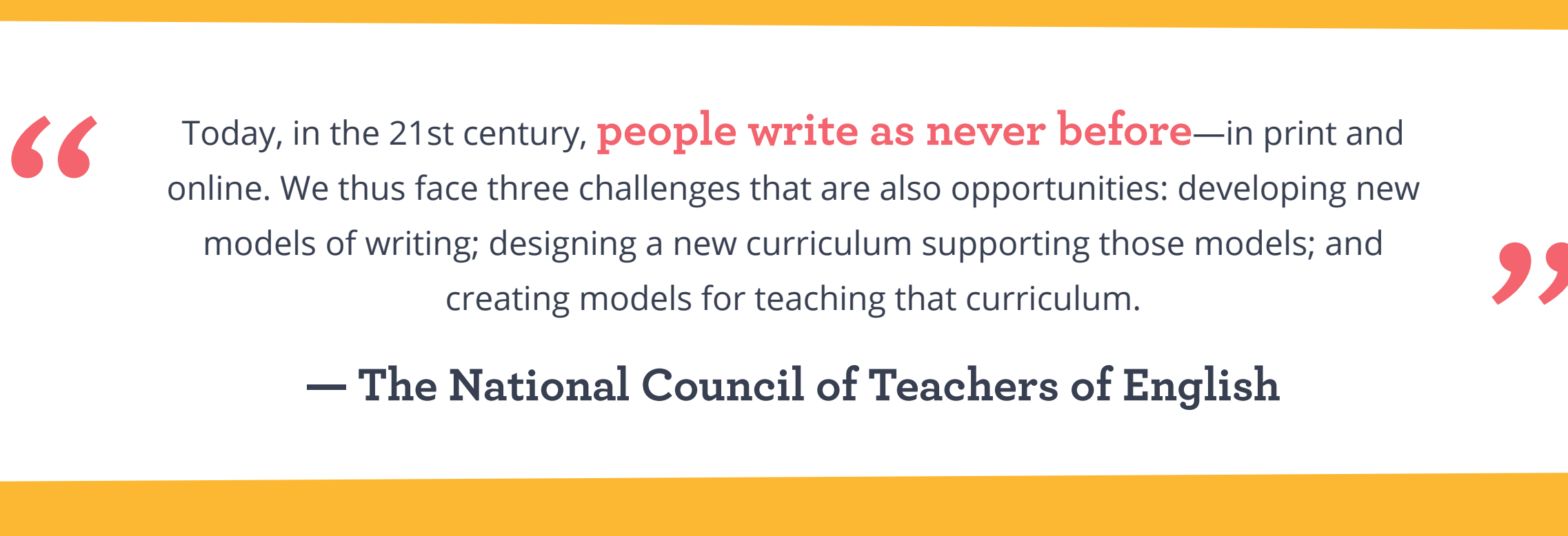
of employers list **written communication** skills as an attribute they seek on a candidate's resume.



75%

of Americans believe that writing is one of the **most important skills** students need to get ahead in the world today.

...But students are getting to high school and college having **never mastered** this key skill:



US 8th and 12th graders are writing **below grade level**.

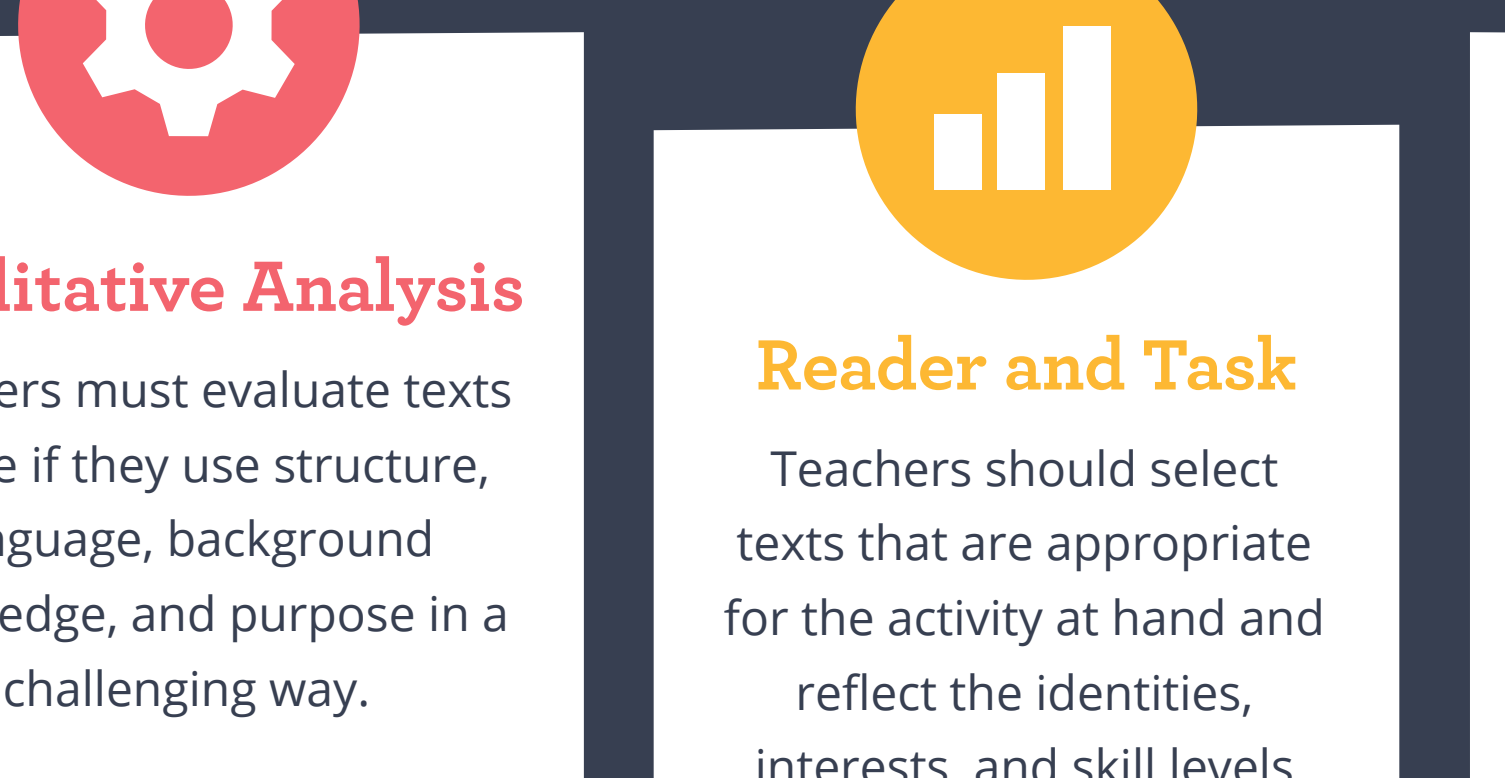
Today, in the 21st century, **people write as never before**—in print and online. We thus face three challenges that are also opportunities: developing new models of writing; designing a new curriculum supporting those models; and creating models for teaching that curriculum.

— The National Council of Teachers of English

To uphold **rigorous writing standards** and prepare students for life outside the classroom, districts need to commit to the following curricular shifts:

Encourage students to write in response to complex texts...

TIP: When selecting texts for students to write in response to, take a three-pronged approach to measuring text complexity:



Qualitative Analysis

Teachers must evaluate texts to see if they use structure, language, background knowledge, and purpose in a challenging way.

Reader and Task

Teachers should select texts that are appropriate for the activity at hand and reflect the identities, interests, and skill levels found in their classrooms.

Quantitative Analysis

In order to be identified as complex, texts must fall within the grade Lexile level of the students reading it.

Ground writing in evidence from literary and informational text...



TIP: Teachers can scaffold text-dependent analysis and deep learning by asking students to write short responses while they read. Save these responses so that students are prepared to cite texts in a longer essay or research project.

And use content-rich nonfiction to build students' background knowledge.

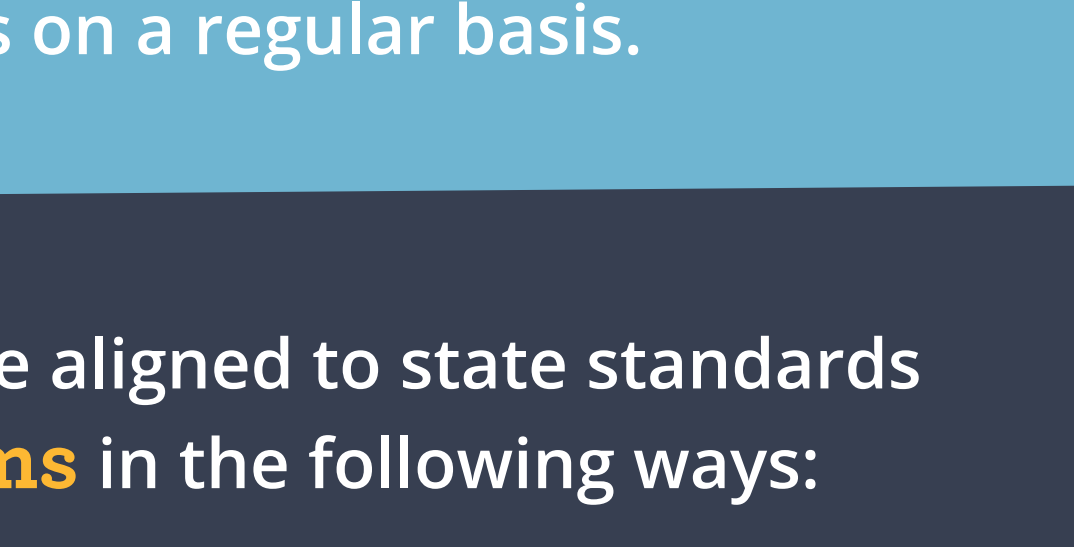
TIP:

Your district can use nonfiction texts to make your ELA curriculum more relevant, engaging, and culturally responsive. Kick off the writing process by providing students with nonfiction articles that explore current events and pop culture while modeling strong informational writing skills.



Increase the frequency and quality of student writing with Frontier...

Less than **1 in 10 ELA lessons** ask students to compose a piece of extended writing.



Frontier bridges this gap, allowing districts to ensure that students are writing opinion, narrative, and informational pieces on a regular basis.

Frontier's writing projects are aligned to state standards and **support classrooms** in the following ways:

Real Time Feedback

By providing immediate feedback on purpose, organization, evidence, and conventions, Frontier saves teachers time and keeps students engaged throughout the writing process.

Writing in Response to Complex Texts

Frontier guides students through every stage of the writing process, from online research to writing and revision.

Data-Driven Insights

Frontier's data reports help districts strengthen their instructional practices and ensure students are on track to becoming proficient writers.

See what Frontier could look like in your district:
<https://www.esparklearning.com/demo>