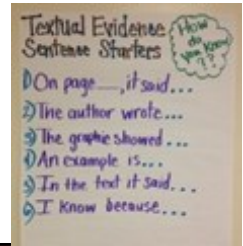




THE ANCHOR STANDARD CHALLENGE #1



What are the Anchor Standards?

The AZ English Language Arts K-12 Anchor Standards, the “backbone” of the Standards, describe the literacy skills which *all students need when they graduate*. There are **10** anchor standards for **reading** and **writing** and **6** for **speaking & listening**.

What purpose do they serve?

Keeping the college and career focus at the forefront of Kindergarten through grade 11/12 implementation is critical as the anchor standards are essential to understanding the structure and cohesive nature of the AZ ELA Standards. It is this unique design that supports the preparation of all students to be successful in school, from the beginning of school, and proficient in the Essential Skills of Reading, Writing, and Speaking and Listening required for an Arizona Diploma.

Where do I find them?

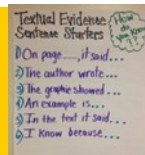
The AZ ELA Anchor Standards can be found on <http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/k-12standards/english-language-arts-standards/>.

Visit <http://coconino.az.gov/1893/ELA-Anchor-Standards> to view previous Anchor Standards Challenges.

What is the challenge?

Create the Most **Creative** and **Used** School Anchor Charts by teachers, administrators and students...

1. Every week/biweekly add a new Anchor Standard to the work/lunchroom. As teachers implement the Anchor Standard at their grade levels have them record it on the chart! Bonus... At staff meetings have discourse around the Anchor Standard.
2. Create Anchor Standard Charts for students. See the great anchor chart that has been used in many classrooms.
3. Share your success with us by sending us pictures, anecdotes, and videos of your use of Anchor Charts. Send information to kdonatell@coconino.az.gov. A special prize will be awarded to the school that has the most success using the charts!



Reading Anchor Standard #2:

Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development.

R.2 Explained

Within this standard, there are several skills. So, what does R.2 entail?

Theme and central idea are the two different terms used in the Anchor Reading Standard 2. While different terms, both get at the same core concept: message. What does the author want the reader to take away? This is confusing for students and most adults. Teaching it as two different concepts is challenging. So how do you introduce these concepts? As one!

1. Figure out what a text is mainly about

A teacher gave students a short story in which the narrator recounts anecdotes from his youth and from his adulthood, but he uses these events to illustrate that his grandfather and he share a unique trait. The story was mainly about this trait—how it showed itself in his family while the narrator was growing up, and how it now shows itself in him as an adult—but the student who wasn’t proficient in the skills of R.2 might say that the text was mainly about the narrator’s life (too general) or it was about the time he built a basketball court with his grandpa (too specific).

2. Figure out what details and ideas support the text’s central ideas/themes

R.2 is a clean standard because its second main component weaves nicely into its first. It’s one thing to know what a text is mainly about; it’s a greater thing to know how an author develops the central ideas/themes of a piece of writing.

In the short story example given above, students should be able to say that the reason they know the story is about the narrator discovering that he, too, has the family trait is because each anecdote contains reflection on the trait as it appeared in his relatives and appears in himself.