

# English Language Arts -- Reading

## 2012 Changes Summary

### **Reporting Categories on Reading SOL Tests:**

- RC1 is Word Analysis and Word Reference
- RC 2 is Comprehension of Fiction
- RC 3 is Comprehension of Nonfiction

### **Word Analysis and Word Reference:**

- Emphasis on Greek and Latin roots and affixes (prefixes and suffixes)
- In the context of passages, draw attention to connotation and denotation
- SOL Reading Test will assess vocab by using passages and stand-alone items.

### **Comprehension of Fiction and Nonfiction:**

- Before, during, and after reading strategies for fiction and nonfiction
- Comparison between forms and genres should include nonfiction
- Nonfiction emphasis on text structure and organizational patterns
- MORE NONFICTION than fiction questions on SOL test (grades 5-12)

### **SOL Testing More Complex!**

- Graphic Organizers are more than the old flow chart.
- Hot Spots
- Drag and Drop
- Not all multiple choice options
- Short response
- More specialized vocabulary
- More critical thinking skills necessary

# English Language Arts -- Writing

## 2012 Changes Summary

*Important! It was stressed that writing is to be taught in EVERY grade--not just in "test-year" grades.*

### Using Technology

- Provide students opportunities to practice COMPOSING using computer technology.
- Use the VDOE SOL Practice Site for the writing test. Teachers get to give students the prompt.
- Self and peer editing essential.
- Stop teaching the five-paragraph essay! The emphasis should be on creating excellent compositions...not on rigid structure that makes for pithy products.

### Types of Prompts by Level

- Grade 5 = Expository or Narrative
- Grade 8 = Persuasive or Expository
- EOC = Persuasive
- Research is tested in writing (not reading)

### Writing Domains

Goes from three domains down to TWO.

- Composing/Written Expression =  $\frac{2}{3}$  of overall score
- Usage and Mechanics =  $\frac{1}{3}$  of overall score

Punctuation Changes!

- Not always "how best to punctuate this sentence" multiple choice.
- Lots of places to put that punctuation--have to click the right red boxes!

### Research

- Start doing research in 4th grade.
- Plagiarism education starts in 3rd grade and goes through high school.
- Citation of primary/secondary sources starts in 6th grade.
- APA/MLA documentation begins in 9th grade.
- Does not always have to be a research paper.
- Media standards can easily be worked into research strand.