2015 Instructional Material Summer Review Institute

Grade K – 8 : English Language Arts/Reading; CORE Reading Intervention; Modern, Classical and Native Languages

**Review Team Appraisal of Title – English Language Arts/Reading**

This information is provided for local school boards and governing authorities of charter schools to consider in their selection process to meet the needs of their student population.

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| Text Title: | SpringBoard English Language Arts Grade 8 | Publisher: | The College Board |
| Course: | 8th Grade ELA | Grade Level: | 8 |
| SE ISBN: | 978-1=4573-0220-6 | TE ISBN: | 978-1-4573-0227-5 |

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| **SECTION 1 SCORE** |
| Reviewer # and Section 1 Total: 1. #16 TOTAL 574 2. #17 TOTAL 596 3. #18 TOTAL 595 Average Score: 588 |
| **SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT** |
| Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 1:* Unlike traditional textbooks (in which students are often cast as passive consumers), nearly every page of the SpringBoard student edition puts the students into the role of active producers. To use this text is to always have the students *doing* something—and something purposeful and productive, at that.
* Lincoln, his death, and the role of a hero with references to Grant, Lee, and Frederick Douglass; the utopian society: these are two of the engaging, diverse, well-supported units within this well-thought-out text.
* SpringBoard constantly offers practical exercises to improve writing. The editors don’t simply remind students to include dialogue in narrative, but offer specific guidelines and examples—many times—so that the students can do so successfully.
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| **SECTION 2 SCORE** |
| Reviewer # and Section 2 Total: 1. #16 TOTAL160 2. #17 TOTAL170 3. #18 TOTAL 175 Average Score: 168 |
| **SECTION 2.A ASSESSMENT** |
| Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2.A:      * As in the other grade-level SpringBoard texts, the inclusion of solid, research-based, pedagogy stands out like a diamond in a dirt pile.
* Exercises, examples and activities assist students to understand the differences between active and passive voice, and to use that understanding to positively impact their writing.
* All four domains of language—reading, writing, speaking, and listening—are integrated thoroughly into all units. ELL students in particular will benefit greatly from this thoughtful construction.
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| **SECTION 2.B ASSESSMENT** |
| Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2.B: * The teacher’s edition wraparound, for example the “Key Ideas and Details” section, is rich with wonderful, meaningful, and useful ideas to augment instruction and differentiate, rather than simply offering up scripts.
* While the standards for review focus on critical-thinking, text-dependent questions, it must be mentioned that SpringBoard does an excellent job of asking students to come up with, and answer, their own critical-thinking, text-dependent questions in an academically proficient fashion.
* Elaborate but understandable rubrics—for everything from argumentative essays to presentations—abound. The format and emphasis within the set of rubrics is consistent throughout, and they can easily be used as effective teaching tools to help students understand both where they are at in a particular skill set and where they need to go next. A wonderful tool for differentiation.
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| **Reviewer Comments** |
| Reviewer #: 16 Reviewer Background: Nine years teaching, Level III, English 11 and AP L&C Comments: The 8th grade SpringBoard edition is my last chance to spend time with these texts. I’m saddened. I appreciate thorough, thoughtful work; everything I’ve seen from SpringBoard more than fits that description. I’d like to see more. Reviewer #: 17 Reviewer Background: Eighteen years of teaching, English III and AP Lang for the last six. Comments: This is yet another example of SOP/Standard Operating Procedure from SpringBoard, as we’ve seen from the 6th and 7th grade editions: Completely exceed the expectations of the educators tasked with the review. Reviewer #: 18 Reviewer Background: Twenty-one years of teaching, fifteen in ELA along with eight in secondary ELL. Comments: As a teacher who works mostly with ELL and special-education populations, SpringBoard is an excellent tool to help those students advance both in a small-group and general-education environment. On a wholly practical level, the student-consumable textbook means explaining and performing makeup work is greatly simplified.  |