

## Professional Learning Session: Crafting standards-aligned writing prompts

*Use this activity as part of a professional learning session for ELA teachers to support them in deepening their understanding of the writing standards.*

**Purpose:** Deepen our understanding of the Vertical Progression of the writing standards, and practice crafting writing prompts that reflect grade-level learning goals

### Objectives:

- Study a mini-assessment model and practice creating a writing prompt for your own grade (using the model text) in order to deepen your understanding of grade-level learning goals.

### Materials:

- [3<sup>rd</sup> grade mini-assessment model](#) (includes text, prompt, and standard)
- [ANet Vertical Progression for Writing Standard 3](#)

### Important Note:

- This activity can be used as part of a professional learning session for grade- or cross-grade-level teams.
- The mini-assessment model is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade example —you can find [additional mini-assessments](#) aligned to a variety of Common Core Standards on Achieve the Core.

### Agenda:

1. **Study the mini-assessment model and identify how the writing prompt addresses the grade-level standard.** Read the writing prompt and related text. Then, read the language of the writing standard and discuss how the writing prompt addresses grade-level expectations set by the standard.
  - What parts of the standard does this writing prompt address?
2. **Deepen knowledge of the progression.** Study the Vertical Progression, focusing on how the requirements and rigor of the standard build from one grade to the next.
  - How does the progression show the standard's cohesiveness across grade levels?
  - How does the topic progress across grade level in terms of the standards' requirements and rigor?
3. **Analyze the requirements and rigor of YOUR grade level's standard.** Read the language of the standard and discuss the key knowledge and skills required by the standard at your grade level.
  - What does the standard require students to know and be able to do?
  - How is your grade level's version of the standard different from the grade below? The grade above?
  - What do you want to keep in mind as you craft your grade-level writing prompt?
4. **Craft a writing prompt that reflects YOUR grade level's learning goals.** Using the model text, craft a writing prompt that reflects the grade-level expectations set by the standard.
  - *Consider: What would a strong response to this writing prompt include?*