

**Suggestions for Using Digital Resources and Tools for**

**Literacy Test Preparation**

**Sites that Offer “PARCC-like Questions”**

There are several online sites that offer resources for engaging kids in the types of questions that they may see on PARCC. From our review of several of these sites, we have indeed found that *some* of the passages and *some* of the questions on these sites are aligned well with the language of the questions and the rigor found on PARCC. Like any online resource, we just caution you to be a careful user and to be selective. . . but how?

*Criteria:*

1. Become comfortable with the language from PARCC by referring to our “Language from PARCC-Multiple Choice” documents by grade. While we cannot guarantee the language our students will see on PARCC, we do see many trends in the language and the type of questions asked on the sample test items. For example, most questions consist of Part A and Part B components. Part B always asks for evidence to support the answer to Part A. When you select questions for practice from online sites, be sure to look for questions that ask for evidence. Some online resources allow teachers to edit the questions provided. If there is not a “Part B” that asks students to identify evidence for the “Part A” answer, you could add that question for your own students.
2. Many of the resources online are submitted by teachers, for teachers. We love this sharing of ideas, but also remind you to be the best judge of accuracy and quality. Some questions are simply better than others. Edcite, for example, asks for feedback directly about questions posted, but does not verify the accuracy or alignment with the CCSS: *“Edcite's content is created by teachers for teachers to use in their classes. At Edcite, we believe teachers are the best judges of content, and we welcome direct feedback on questions and assignments.”*
3. Where possible, look for passages that are not created for test-prep per se, but are excerpted from real literature or informational texts. These tend to be the richest in terms of language and ideas.
4. Some online resources that support the CCSS are reflecting Smarter Balanced Assessment items as well as the PARCC Assessment. Again, not all questions and test items will be worth your students’ time.

*Sites to Explore:*

* Newsela.com
* Edcite.com
* Edmoto.com

**Reading Online with Digital Subscriptions & Responding Online**

Many schools are beginning to order subscriptions of magazines with digital versions for students--e.g. *Cricket, Cobblestone, Time for Kids, StoryWorks, Scholastic News*. These digital periodicals include a wide range of genres with rich language. Provide your students with opportunities to read and respond to texts online. Students can respond through regular engagement with a blog (such as KidBlog) or a question you create yourself. Use the language from PARCC (either the constructed response or multiple choice) to create questions that include parallel language. Many of these resources have short videos related to feature articles that allow students to engage across nonfiction texts with main ideas. Use these resources to support the development of constructed responses, as well. See our document “Constructed Response Preparation Suggestions” for more ways to use such resources.