

# THE ANCHOR STANDARD CHALLENGE # 18



## 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?

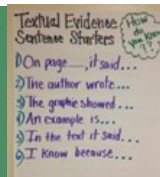
The AZ ELA Anchor Standards can be found on <http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/k-12standards/english-language-arts-standards/>.

Visit <http://coconino.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.gov](mailto:kdonatell@coconino.gov). A special prize will be awarded to the school that has the most success using the charts!



## Writing Anchor Standard # 8:

Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

## W.8 Explained

In a perfect world, doing research would simply mean you could shout your question out the window and have an answer shouted back to you. In a perfect digital world, you could type your research topic into Google and immediately have your research done for you. While most of us are unlikely to try the first method of research, all of us have probably done the second.

Here's why that's a problem: When we conduct research, we need to make certain that we are using multiple sources. Why? Because poor research skills could mean our NASA report is based on the blog of a person who believes that the 1969 moon landing was all an elaborate hoax. So how to avoid the trap of bad information? Diversify! Start by gathering information from several sources, including books and magazines. Cross-reference the facts from each source to assess the credibility and accuracy. It is also important to check out who the author of the article is. If no individual or organization will take full credit for the information in the article, then that should be a red flag that warns us that we might not be able to trust the information. If we do have an author's name, we should find out what makes the writer an expert on this information. Other things to look for when checking credibility and accuracy are: How old is the source? And how did we find it? While some information is not likely to change, other fields are constantly being updated. The abundance of unreliable information available on the web is part of the reason why we also want to use non-digital sources. Anyone can create a web page or blog, but in order to get published in a traditional print medium, an author must convince a lot of people that his or her ideas have merit.

Of course, having the good sources is not enough. Once we have that information, we need to use it in our project without plagiarizing. Since we live in the future when information is ridiculously simple to get, it can be easy to forget that using information correctly is very different from stealing someone's writing. Basically, we can incorporate facts that are common knowledge without crediting the source. For example, “Neil Armstrong was the first human being to walk on the moon” is a fact that is common knowledge. For anything else, we must tell our reader where we got the information—even if we paraphrase!

Adapted from: <http://www.shmoop.com/common-core-standards/ccss-ela-literacy-ccra-w-8.html>

