



ANCHOR STANDARD CHALLENGE # 24



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.

Visit <http://coconino.az.gov/1893/ELA-Anchor-Standards> to view previous Anchor Standard Challenges.

Speaking & Listening Anchor Standard #4:

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

The first three Speaking and Listening standards provided a scaffold for student presentations by having them collaborate in conversations, evaluate quality models or “mentor text” presentations, and outline an orally presented argument. The next three standards task students with creating the presentations themselves.

SLS.4 starts by asking students to simply present in a way that can be followed easily. Students often do not plan out the design of presentations as carefully as they would a project or essay, and to be career and college ready it is time for them to think about, and practice, the performance itself. Power Points and other digital tools can be a crutch that masks quality reasoning and evidence with a nice package, but there are ways to force them to improve.

An adaptation of Guy Kawasaki’s “10/20/30” PowerPoint rule is a good place to start. For business presentations, he recommends no more than 10 slides, 20 minutes, and 30 point font, thus forcing the presenter to make his or line of reasoning easy to follow, and relegating the PowerPoint itself to the back seat where it belongs. For K-12, it could be 10/10/30 or any variation thereof; elementary school presentations could include posters or dioramas, but some type of easy to remember time and font rule should be applied.

Audience members should be busy during presentations with KWL charts or a note taking strategy of some sort, and in any case the “I do, we do, you do” rule should apply: teachers should carefully scaffold the design of presentations early and often. Filming presentations on an iPad is a good way to publish and formatively assess as the school year progresses.