



# COMMON GROUND

A Communication Toolkit for Connecting San Mateo County to Common Core and SBAC

This week's essential question: "How is learning different under the Common Core State Standards?"

The new Common Core standards aren't a curriculum. Instead, they're a set of standards built around 21st-century skills that will help students prepare for college or a career. Individual teachers will use a variety of strategies to engage their students in discussion, close reading, and constructive debate. This means teachers and students will spend a lot more time listening, engaging with one another, and asking "why?"



**Sample Post:** Consider posting this essential question and answer to the parent resources section of your website or to an FAQ page.

## FOR FAMILIES

Kyle Schwartz, a third-grade teacher in Denver, Colo. writes about the challenges he and his fellow teachers faced as they adapted their instruction to the Common Core standards. According to Mr. Schwartz, "It struck me that the work we were doing as teachers mirrored the work that we ask of students under Common Core. The learning took place in the struggle, just as it does for our students."

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**Sample Tweet:** Great op-ed by a teacher who argues that #CommonCore makes learning and instruction meaningful, via @washingtonpost <http://wapo.st/1FTYO6o>

## FOR STUDENTS

This poster, from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation's Embrace the Core initiative, helps students identify the skills they need to be 21st-century learners—which is exactly what the Common Core is intended to do.

The graphic illustrates skills such as being able to communicate ideas, use tech tools, and have scaffolded support from parents and teachers. And it's perfect to hang in the classroom!



**Sample Post:** All of our students are 21st-century learners, but are they mastering 21st-century skills? Take a look at this poster, and think about how you use these important skills every day. Print it out; hang it up!

(Note: for added visual appeal, consider adding a screenshot or image version of the PDF to your Facebook post.)

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SHARE FEEDBACK

## FOR TEACHERS

Get inspired! Take advantage of opportunities to learn from other teachers by visiting the Teaching Channel. You'll find tons of videos for teachers, by teachers so you can watch, share, and learn new and innovative techniques.



Videos are sorted by subject, grade, and topic. Some even have designations noting the Common Core or Next Generation Science Standard they align with.

VIDEOS

## FUN FACTS

Informational text plays an important role in the Common Core State Standards and in building content knowledge for students. Common Core prepares students to read, write, and research across the curriculum by more heavily incorporating nonfiction texts.

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Image via GreatSchools.org