

Crosswalk of Common Core Instructional Shifts: ELA/Literacy
Connecting English Language Arts and Merry-Go-Round Youth Theatre's
Middle School Echoes Creative Writing Competition Fall Workshop

Shifts According to EngageNY
www.engageny.org

Shifts According to
Student Achievement Partners
www.achievethecore.org

4: Text-based Answers: Students provide critical feedback for a sample writing piece, using evidence from a lesson on creating a clear story using details. Students will make connections between the creative writing lesson and their ELA writing curriculum. Experiences are deeply connected to the given text and rooted in strategies to strengthen writing.

5: Writing from Sources: Students engage in a writing practice activity during which they are prompted to adapt a writing piece to a certain style (commercial, poem, skit, etc.). They will use evidence from the creative writing lesson to inform their writing and stylizing. The writing pieces students submit to the Echoes competition will respond to ideas and events in the world around them and express their experiences and the experiences of others.

3: Staircase of Complexity: Having completed the K-5 “steps” of growth on the sequential dramatics “staircase,” middle school students now have the skills necessary to generate their own theatrical experience by submitting writing pieces used to create a 50-minute variety show comprised entirely of students’ writing. Merry-Go-Round actors provide scaffolding and supports during the fall workshop to foster students’ ability to create strong writing pieces that clearly communicate their thoughts and ideas to an audience.

2: Reading and writing grounded in evidence from text

3: Regular practice with complex text and its academic vocabulary