

How can I find the best ELA classroom content?

3 components to enhance North Carolina's ELA content

North Carolina has made significant strides in learning recovery, including providing the [research and support](#) to better meet the needs of all students. The state plan for [The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief](#) (ARP ESSER) lists "academic recovery in reading and addressing social emotional health and well-being" as state priorities. Beyond acknowledging this lost time, every district also set aside a mandatory [20 percent](#) of ARP ESSER funding.

Compared to the 2018-2019 school year, [reading scores](#) and student performance on [end-of-grade and end-of-course tests](#) declined in 2020-21. North Carolina has considered evidence-based strategies, such as funding for [high-impact statewide tutoring and a competency-based assessment and platform](#) to address the academic impact of lost instructional time.

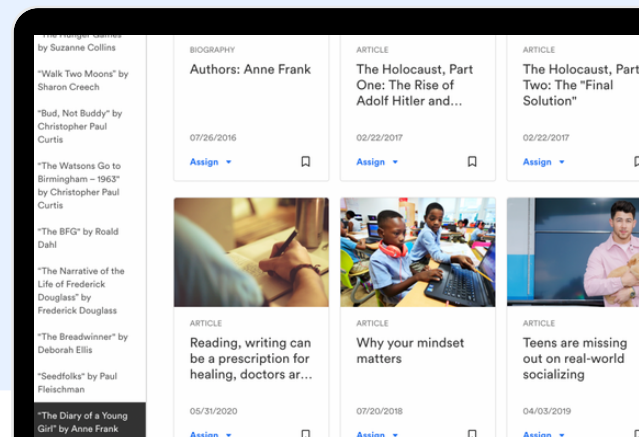
Understanding the reading challenges and the direction North Carolina wants to go, it's clear that additional support is needed. With [Newsela ELA](#), teachers can help students prepare for tests by creating engaging and rigorous lessons to make up for lost instructional time. Our relevant, leveled content available at 5 different reading levels, differentiates texts and builds literacy skills, background knowledge, and vocabulary students need to become active, engaged readers.

Take a look at these 3 components you need to enhance ELA content in North Carolina, that strikes that balance between the rigor of tested skills and engagement.

1

CONTENT RELEVANCE

Students need to see their lives represented in diverse texts in order to build real world connections to the ELA curriculum. ELA lessons should include authentic and relevant content that's culturally responsive, is of interest to students, and keeps them engaged while supporting tested skills.



Roughly 45% of all [North Carolina READY English II End-of-Course Assessment](#) questions focus on reading informational texts. Newsela offers a robust content library with over 15,000 informational texts at 5 reading levels. You can complement your existing curricular materials with a vast library of content, including informational texts. For instance, students can read about topics relevant to the state, such as [Early history of Raleigh, North Carolina](#), or [North Carolina 1920: 100 years later](#).

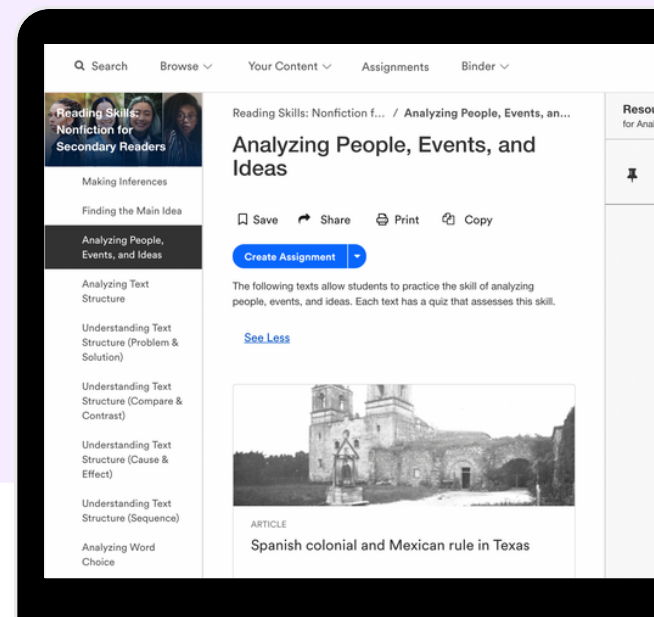
Even older texts, such as [“Diary of a Young Girl” by Anne Frank](#), can become relevant to the present-day when paired with supporting articles on issues such as mindset and refugees.

2

SKILLS REINFORCEMENT

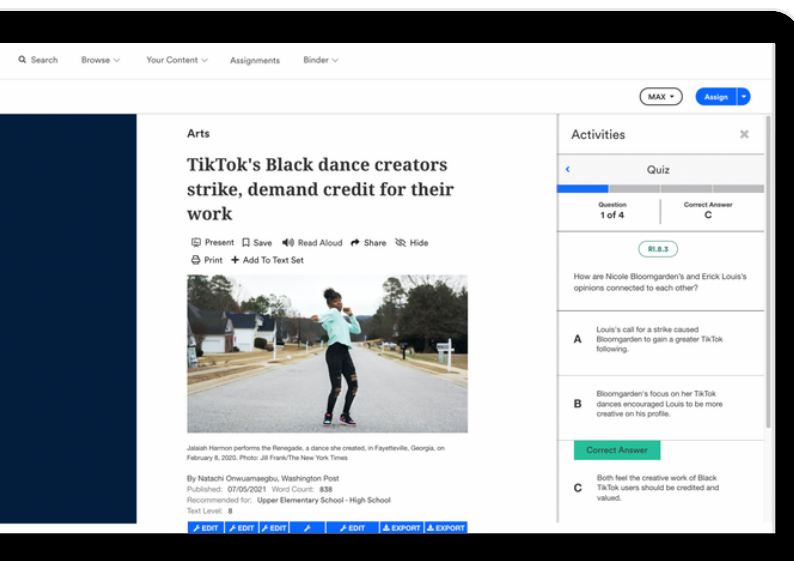
We understand that testing season is stressful and the decline in [grade level proficiency in reading](#) is a concern for North Carolina. Now is the time to pinpoint how to keep students on track, acknowledge that some learners need more practice or have different learning preferences, and provide enough opportunities or entry points for skills practice.

How about reinforcing tested skills with engaging texts? If sixth grade teachers want students to practice ELA reading standard [RI.6.3](#) on analyzing a key individual, event or idea, provide space for students to choose from a vast collection of diverse texts in our [Reading Skills: Nonfiction for Secondary Readers - Analyzing People, Events and Ideas](#) text set, included in [Newsela ELA](#).



Students can also work together in small groups to read texts aloud as they practice a range of reading skills on topics such as [TikTok's Black dance creators](#) or [the advent of television](#).

Our array of low-stakes formative assessments, such as [annotations](#) and [Write Prompts](#), allow students to dive into the text in a more engaging manner and for teachers to meet students where they are. With a [Newsela ELA](#) subscription, most articles will also include a 4 question quiz that [exposes](#) students to the types of questions being asked on high-stakes reading assessments.



3

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING/WHOLE CHILD CONSIDERATIONS

Social-emotional learning (SEL) has always been a priority issue, but became heightened in the wake of the pandemic as students adjusted to new learning environments. Considering the [whole child](#) in education helps advance equity as it prioritizes the full scope of a child's developmental needs.

North Carolina recognizes social-emotional health and well-being as a state priority in their [ARP ESSER](#). With [The Newsela Social-Emotional Learning Collection](#), you'll have access to content and lessons to help promote SEL skills relevant to ELA instruction, such as growth mindset and recognizing emotions. It's published at 5 reading levels and organized by the 5 [Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning \(CASEL\)](#) competencies.



The best lessons in
North Carolina start
with the best content.

With [Newsela ELA](#), North Carolina educators can enhance their ELA content with these 3 components. Visit [Newsela for North Carolina](#) to learn more about why North Carolina educators trust Newsela for authentic and engaging content.

Interested in scheduling a solution session to enhance your ELA content? Contact us at go.newsela.com/contact so we can discuss!

