

Day 5 ELA Sessions

Bringing It All Together:

Knowledge, Writing, and a Cohesive Curriculum

Grades 6–8

Winter Institute 2018

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Praise, Question, Suggest

Share your plan(s) with your partner, pointing out where your thinking about the standards, the shifts, and equity principles is evident. What specific standards do you intend for your students to practice? How is your plan reflective of the shifts? How is your plan reflective of the equity principles?

Partners should offer each other:

- Praise: Where are the strengths in the plan(s)?
- Question(s): Where are things unclear or not yet aligned?
- Suggestion(s): What additional ideas would strengthen the plan(s)?

Knowing and Writing

Read "A Powerful Tool: Writing Based on Knowledge and Understanding."

Annotate (or take notes) for the following intersections between the article's central claim and this week's:

Content	
Instructional protocols and strategies	
Learning experiences	

Journal: How can the learning we have done this week around the reading standards be leveraged to prepare students to become proficient writers?

Florida has driest, warmest December in 6 years

By **Kevin Spear**

December 29, 2016

Most of Florida was soaking wet this year, but rain has been so scarce in recent weeks that the state is having the driest start of a winter in years.

The U.S. Drought Monitor, a weekly report by government and university experts, shows 91 percent of the state's 66,000 square miles as having either abnormally dry conditions or experiencing low-level drought.

The dry spell took hold last month, according to the Drought Monitor. Not since 2010 has December in Florida been so parched, warm and promising so little relief in months to come.

A front passing through Central Florida late Thursday was expected to bring a 20-degree plunge in temperatures but few or no showers. Monday has a better chance of rain.

"We can expect drier conditions to last through the winter," said National Weather Service meteorologist Derrick Weitlich.

Also noteworthy at the close of 2016 is that the Orlando area and much of Florida has had yet another year of persistently high temperatures.

Weitlich said Orlando's temperature for the year — determined by averaging nighttime lows with daytime highs — is likely to tie for third-warmest since records began in the late 1800s.

Last year was Orlando's hottest on record, and the second-hottest was 1990.

With this month on the verge of being recorded as the fourth-warmest December for Orlando, 2016 is poised to join 1922, 1948, 1971 and 1972 to rank as the city's third-warmest year.

However, neither last year nor this year experienced sizzling heat waves; very few record-high marks were set.

Where the difference came was at night, when the state didn't cool off much.

"We didn't really have many extreme highs," Weitlich said. "But we had many minimum-temperature records that were broken."

It might have been warmer this year, but winter and spring rains held temperatures down.

Wetter weather was attributed to an El Niño climate pattern, in which the surface of the Pacific Ocean near the equator is warmer, and the atmosphere over Southern states is moister.

As is often the case, the El Niño event was followed by La Niña conditions now in place; the Pacific is now cooler, and Southern weather is drier.

Several months this year, including January, March and August, were significantly wetter than normal.

Orlando's total rainfall this year stands now at 54.3 inches, which is 3.8 inches more than normal.

But the disappearance of rain this fall was abrupt, and that surplus of 3.8 inches no longer is much help for lawns and gardens.

Ed Thralls, urban horticulture agent with the Orange County Extension Service, said Central Florida landscapes still need some moisture even though it's winter.

He said camellias, for example, will soon flower throughout the metro area and will need rain or irrigation "to make sure the buds will open."

The last heavy rains came in early October with Hurricane Matthew, which churned north over the Atlantic Ocean, grazing the state's coast.

The National Weather Service gauge in Orlando recorded just .06 inches of rain in November, making it the second-driest November on record.

It was also the driest November on record for the state, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information.

This month has been wetter; the National Weather Service's official gauge for Orlando is at Orlando International Airport, which has recorded 2.5 inches of rain this month, or slightly more than normal.

However, a weather-service gauge at Orlando Executive Airport near downtown has recorded less than a half-inch so far this month.

The U.S. Drought Monitor, which is revised every Thursday, reported last week that citrus growers, ranchers and farmers are resorting to irrigation and other means to deal with dry weather.

Erik Jacobsen, manager of Deseret Ranches in Orange, Osceola and Brevard counties, which was established nearly 60 years ago and is one of the nation's largest producers of calves for the beef industry, said recent rains brought some relief to an otherwise very dry fall.

"We have learned to deal with the ups and downs of the weather over the years," Jacobsen said.

Authentic Engagement

Our public relations agency has been asked to submit a proposal to work with the State of Florida to win the EPA's annual "Watersense Award." This award is given to municipalities that develop successful water conservation campaigns.

Your task this morning will be to work with a partner to develop a powerful 30-second radio public service announcement that will convince fellow Floridians to do something specific in order to protect fresh water. This public service announcement will be our "audition" to win the contract with the State of Florida.

Deconstructing the Task

What do students need to know and be able to do to accomplish this task? Break down the knowledge and skills into discrete sections with table partners.

List skills that must be taught explicitly and practiced before and during this process

Analyzing a Model

Water conservation is a way of life in California. As we approach the rainy season, the Save Our Water Program and California's local water agencies encourage you to adjust your sprinkler timers and reduce your landscape watering for cooler fall weather. And fix leaks, inside and out. Leaks as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen in your irrigation can waste up to 6,300 gallons of water each month. For more water saving times, visit www.saveourwater.com. Water conservation...It's for life!

Reflection

- How has your knowledge of the threats to fresh water and the life forms that rely on them changed over the last several days? (Refer to your notes from past days as necessary)
- Which equity principles were exercised to assist in the building of your knowledge?
- What strategies and skills work from the week could you embed immediately to scaffold learning for struggling students?