**5 Pillars for ELA and Content Area Literacy**

**The Common Core State Standards establish fewer, clearer, and higher standards to prepare all students for the demands of college and career.**

We have identified five pillars that represent the shifts in instruction within the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Content area Literacy. Focusing on these pillars will help teachers to transition to the new standards in preparation for the Next Generation Assessments.

1. **Text complexity\***

Students will independently read and comprehend classic and contemporary complex texts to build knowledge across a broad range of subject matter.

1. **High-quality text-dependent questions and tasks**

Students will discern the key points of text, request clarification, ask relevant questions, and cite specific text-based evidence when offering an interpretation.

1. **Range and quality of texts**

Students will engage with and evaluate complex texts across a range of types and disciplines and consider multiple perspectives that represent a variety of periods, cultures, and worldviews.

1. **Focus on academic and domain-specific vocabulary**

Students will encounter and use academic vocabulary in reading, writing, speaking, and listening tasks in order to appreciate nuances, such as how text composition and author’s word choice affect meaning.

1. **Writing and research that analyze sources and deploy evidence**

Students will refine and share knowledge through a variety of research and writing tasks and use relevant evidence from multiple sources, including digital media, to support their own viewpoints.

\*Interwoven through Pillars 2-5