ThinkCERCA™

High School - Georgia Social Studies Curriculum Guide
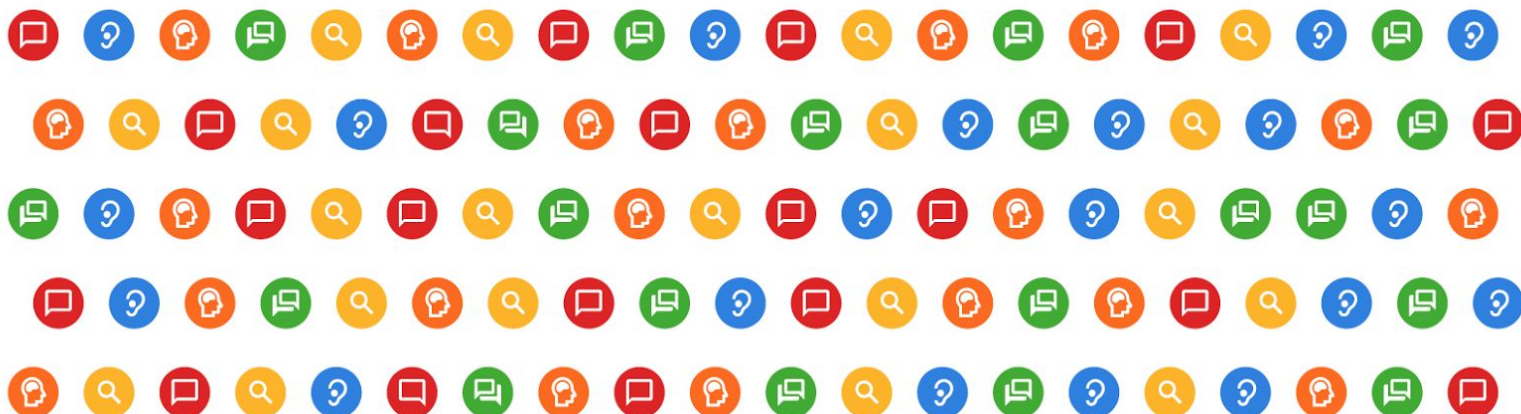
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I. Overview

Objective

To support schools and districts in increasing student achievement in reading and writing across disciplines through rigorous, differentiated content and instruction for English language arts, social studies, science, and math.
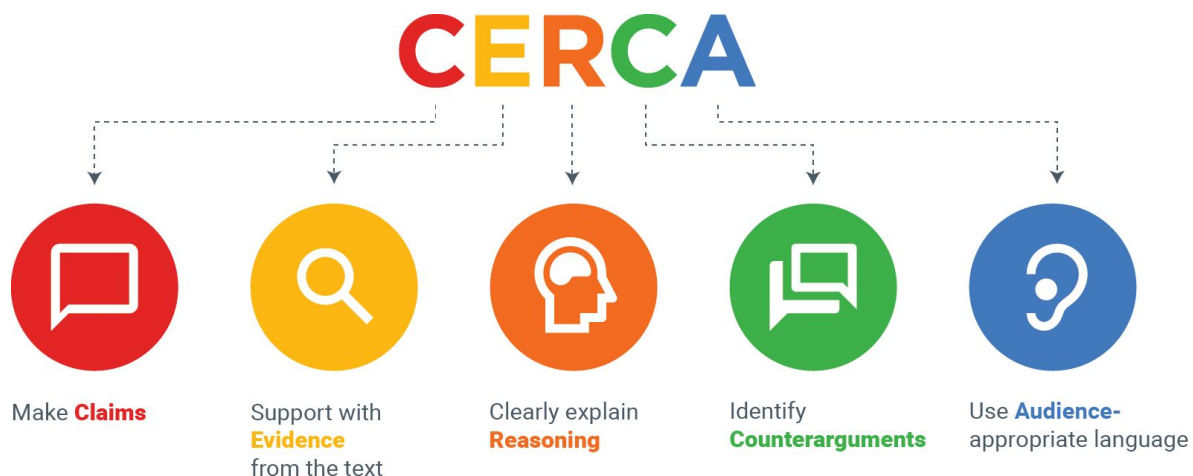
Goals

- Provide measurable student outcomes by improving teacher capacity for the delivery of standards-based literacy instruction, featuring grade-level complex texts and tasks with a focus on close reading and argumentative writing across English, Science, Social Studies, and Math.
- Increase professional collaboration through a shared language, practice, and data.
- Improve instructional leadership with a flexible, cross-curricular framework that focuses on research-based practices in early to intermediate literacy instruction.
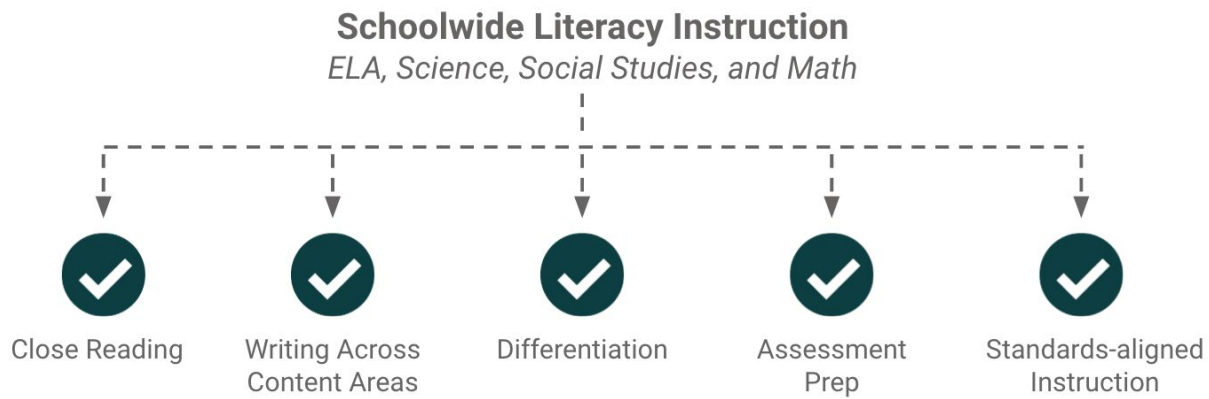
Solution: ThinkCERCA

ThinkCERCA's personalized literacy curriculum and platform empowers teachers to grow students' critical thinking skills. Through standards-aligned close reading and academic writing lessons for English language arts, science, social studies, and math, our schoolwide approach to literacy instruction prepares students in grades 3-12 for post-secondary life by building their analytical skills in every subject.

The CERCA Framework gives teams a common literacy language to collaborate more effectively across content areas and improve student outcomes. Our coherent curriculum is based on disciplinary texts and discipline-specific close reading and academic writing, including argumentative, informational, narrative, and research writing.

CERCA

Make **Claims**

Support with **Evidence** from the text

Clearly explain **Reasoning**

Identify **Counterarguments**

Use **Audience**-appropriate language

The ThinkCERCA Platform

Schoolwide Literacy Instruction
ELA, Science, Social Studies, and Math

Close Reading	Writing Across Content Areas	Differentiation	Assessment Prep	Standards-aligned Instruction

Schoolwide Literacy Instruction

The CERCA Framework gives teams a common language to collaborate more effectively across content areas and improve student outcomes.

Close Reading

Our platform includes a lesson library of relevant, leveled texts and tasks that build students' discipline-specific knowledge while making close reading engaging and fun.

- Standards-aligned, discipline-specific highlighting and summarizing practice
- In-text vocabulary and audio support
- Automated assessments for comprehension

Writing Across Content Areas

Scaffolded lessons walk students through the process of using evidence and details to support their argumentative, informational, and narrative writings across disciplines.

- Interactive Argument Builder; prewriting tools for narrative and informational writing
- Rigorous writing prompts focused on debatable issues and great literary models
- Standards-aligned sentence frames and supports for English language development

Differentiation

We make personalization simple with theme-based text sets that are differentiated for 10 levels of readiness and built-in tools that keep teachers at the center of instruction.

- Embedded differentiation tools to auto-assign by readiness level
- Leveling pre-assessments for reading and writing
- Real-time data to monitor student progress

Standards-Aligned Instruction

Our instructional designs were developed based on the research and practice of master teachers and nationally recognized literacy experts and meet the demands of new career and college readiness standards.

- Introductions to standards-aligned key skills and concepts
- Alignment with Common Core, NGSS, and C3
- Standards-aligned grading rubrics

Assessment Preparation

Research shows that frequent practice of CERCA increases test scores while building critical thinking skills. ThinkCERCA's formative and summative assessments allow teachers to infuse practice with items found in new state assessments, including PARCC, Smarter Balanced, and ACT, as well as the new SAT and growth assessments such as NWEA.

- Development of analytical and synthesizing skills
- Practice of providing supporting evidence with discipline-specific language instruction
- Creation of constructed responses to text-based questions

C3 Framework

We collaborated with key thought leaders, including the designers of the C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards, as we developed our social studies content. These leveled lessons—aligned to key topics across geographical locations and time periods—allow teachers to build discipline-specific background knowledge in a vertical plan while engaging students who may be ahead of or behind peers.

II. Lesson Types

ThinkCERCA's standards-aligned lessons provide engaging content and expert instruction to give all students the opportunity to grow their literacy skills.

APPLIED READING & WRITING

Practice close reading and academic writing.

ThinkCERCA's Applied Reading & Writing lessons are centered around debatable topics that get students thinking critically about real-world issues. Using the CERCA Framework and our built-in graphic organizer, these lessons walk students through the process of reading a text closely to construct cohesive argumentative, informational, or narrative writings. Highlighting and annotating tools, in-text vocabulary support, and audio and visuals guide students through the text to ensure overall comprehension. Students can also collaborate with one another through teacher-facilitated debates and discussions to practice their speaking and listening skills.

DIRECT INSTRUCTION

Introduce key skills and concepts.

ThinkCERCA's Direct Instruction lessons feature short, expert introductions to standards-aligned skills and concepts that students can strengthen over time. These skills include concepts and vocabulary related to the CERCA Framework, such as how to make claims, find evidence, and explain one's reasoning, in addition to other basic literacy skills. A flipbook-style format, built-in audio, supportive visuals, and real-time feedback are among the many features included within our direct instruction lessons to keep students engaged.

ADDITIONAL READING PRACTICE

Assign leveled texts and automated assessments.

Our Additional Reading Practice lessons contain high-interest, authentic informational texts—featuring videos, graphs, charts, and other visual sources— that build up students' discipline-specific background knowledge. At the end of each lesson, students answer five multiple choice questions to gauge comprehension and get them accustomed to the kinds of questioning found in growth assessments, PARCC, Smarter Balanced, and ACT Aspire. Additionally, in-text vocabulary and voice-over tools provide students with additional comprehension and support. All Additional Reading Practice lessons are aligned to the College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading.

III. Content Standards and Aligned CERCA Sets

American Government/Civics		
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSCG1** **Compare and contrast various systems of government.**
	CERCA SET	**Comparative Government** (coming soon)

	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSCG2** **Demonstrate knowledge of the political philosophies that shaped the development of United States constitutional government.**
	CERCA SET	**The U.S. Constitution** **Thomas Paine and the Philosophy of Revolutions**

	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSCG3** **Demonstrate knowledge of the framing and structure of the United States Constitution.**
	CERCA SET	**Struggle of a New Nation** **The U.S. Constitution**

	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSCG4** **Demonstrate knowledge of the organization and powers of the national government.**
	CERCA SET	**The Electoral College** **US Government Structure** (coming soon)

	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSCG5** **Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system of government described in the United States Constitution.**
	CERCA SET	**The U.S. Constitution** **Supreme Court Decisions: Free Speech** **The Electoral College** **US Government Structure** (coming soon)

	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSCG7** **Demonstrate knowledge of civil liberties and civil rights.**
	CERCA SET	**Voting Rights Act** **Technology and the Fourth Amendment** **Supreme Court Decisions: Free Speech**

	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSCG10** **Demonstrate knowledge of the executive branch of government.**
	CERCA SET	**The Electoral College**

	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSCG13** **Demonstrate knowledge of the operation of the judicial branch of government.**
	CERCA SET	**Supreme Court Decisions: Free Speech** **Technology and the Fourth Amendment** **Government Role in Health**

	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	SSCG14 Demonstrate knowledge of the criminal justice process.
	CERCA SET	Crime Prevention

	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	SSCG15 Demonstrate knowledge of local, state, and national elections.
	CERCA SET	Voting

	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	SSCG16 Analyze the difference between involuntary and voluntary participation in civic life.
	CERCA SET	Social Responsibility Voting Modern Protest

Economics

	SECTION	**Fundamentals**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSEF2** **Give examples of how rational decision making entails comparing the marginal benefits and the marginal costs of an action.**
	CERCA SET	**Money and Decisions** (Cross Curricular - Literature Set)

	SECTION	**Fundamentals**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSEF4** **Compare and contrast different economic systems and explain how they answer the three basic economic questions of what to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce.**
	CERCA SET	**Value**

	SECTION	**Microeconomics**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSEMI3** **Explain the organization and role of business and analyze the four types of market structures in the U.S. economy.**
	CERCA SET	**Entrepreneurship**

	SECTION	**Macroeconomics**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSEMA1** **Illustrate the means by which economic activity is measured.**
	CERCA SET	**Economic Disasters**

	SECTION	**International**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSEIN1** **Explain why individuals, businesses, and governments trade goods and services.**
	CERCA SET	**Value**

	SECTION	**Personal Finance**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSEPF1** **Apply rational decision making to personal spending and saving choices.**
	CERCA SET	**Risk Taking** **Money and Decisions** (Cross Curricular - Literature Set)

	SECTION	**Personal Finance**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSEPF5** **Describe how insurance and other risk-management strategies protect against financial loss.**
	CERCA SET	**Risk Taking**

Personal Financial Literacy

	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSPFL2** **Describe how budgeting and actively reviewing finances can be used to allocate scarce income.**
	CERCA SET	**Money and Decisions** (Cross Curricular - Literature Set)

	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSPFL3** **Evaluate different methods for paying for goods and services.**
	CERCA SET	**Value**

	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSPFL8** **Evaluate reasons for and various methods of investment.**
	CERCA SET	**Risk Taking**
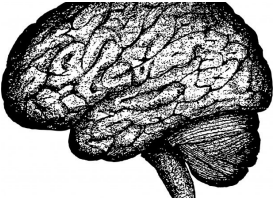
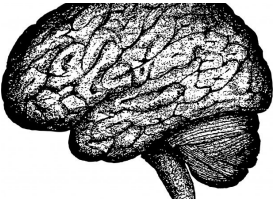|	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSPFL9** **Describe how insurance and other risk-management strategies protect against financial loss**
	CERCA SET	**Risk Taking**

Psychology

SECTION	Biological Foundations
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSPBF1** **Explain the development, structure, and function of biological systems and their role in behavior, cognition, and emotion.**
CERCA SET	**The Human Nervous System**

SECTION	Biological Foundations
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSPBF3** **Discuss the components of stress.**
CERCA SET	**Perseverance**

SECTION	Biological Foundations
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSPBF4** **Describe how the physical world is translated into a psychological experience.**
CERCA SET	**The Human Nervous System**

SECTION	Change in Behavior and Cognition
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSPBC1** **Identify the characteristics of and major approaches to learning.**
CERCA SET	**21st Century Learning**

	SECTION	**Social Psychology**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSPSP1** **Analyze the impact of the social environment on behaviors, and attitudes.**
	CERCA SET	**Group Decision-Making**

Sociology

	DOMAIN	**Culture and Social Structure**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSSocC1** **Explain the development and importance of culture.**
	CERCA SET	**Mahatma Gandhi** **The Art of the Renaissance**

	SECTION	**Culture and Social Structure**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSSocC2** **Evaluate how cultures evolve over time.**
	CERCA SET	**Societal Hierarchies** **The Art and Architecture of Ancient Greece** **Afterlife in Ancient Egypt** **Ancient Maya**

	SECTION	**Culture and Social Structure**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSSocC3** **Analyze social structure and interaction within society.**
	CERCA SET	**Cultural Perception**

	SECTION	**Socialization and Social Control**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSSocSC1** **Explain the process of socialization.**
	CERCA SET	**Growing Up** **Nonverbal Communication** **Social Media** **Personal Identity**

SECTION	**Socialization and Social Control**
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSSocSC2** **Analyze deviance in society.**
CERCA SET	**Bullying**

SECTION	**Socialization and Social Control**
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSSocSC3** **Analyze the impact of social control on deviance in society.**
CERCA SET	**Modern Protest** **Social Responsibility**

SECTION	**Socialization and Social Control**
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSSocSC4** **Analyze the function of social institutions as agents of social control across differing societies and times.**
CERCA SET	**Voting** **Crime Prevention** **Government Role in Health** **Sports and Society** **Social Media**

SECTION	**Social Inequities and Change**
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSSocIC1** **Analyze forms of social inequality.**
CERCA SET	**Progressive Era Child Labor** **Voting Rights Act** **Women in War**

	SECTION	**Social Inequities and Change**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSSocIC2** **Analyze social change processes in a society.**
	CERCA SET	**Technology and Impact** **Social Responsibility** **Image and Impact** **Entrepreneurship** **Perseverance**

United States History

DOMAIN	United States History
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSUSH1** **Compare and contrast the development of English settlement and colonization during the 17th Century**
CERCA SET	**Jamestown**

DOMAIN	United States History
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSUSH2** **Describe the early English colonial society and investigate the development of its governance**
CERCA SET	**Struggle of a New Nation** **Jamestown**

DOMAIN	United States History
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSUSH3** **Analyze the causes of the American Revolution.**
CERCA SET	**Paul Revere and the Revolutionary War**

DOMAIN	United States History
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSUSH4** **Analyze the ideological, military, social, and diplomatic aspects of the American Revolution.**
CERCA SET	**Thomas Paine and the Philosophy of Revolutions**

	DOMAIN	United States History
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSUSH5** **Investigate specific events and key ideas that brought about the adoption and implementation of the United States Constitution.**
	CERCA SET	**The U.S. Constitution**

	DOMAIN	United States History
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSUSH6** **Analyze the challenges faced by the first five presidents and how they responded.**
	CERCA SET	**Struggle of a New Nation**

	DOMAIN	United States History
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSUSH7** **Investigate political, economic, and social developments during the Age of Jackson.**
	CERCA SET	**Economic Strategies in the Civil War**

	DOMAIN	United States History
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSUSH8 Explore the relationship between slavery, growing north-south divisions, and westward expansion that led to the outbreak of the Civil War.**
	CERCA SET	**The Transatlantic Slave Trade** **Economic Strategies in the Civil War** **Westward Expansion**
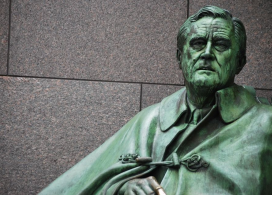
	DOMAIN	United States History
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSUSH9** **Evaluate key events, issues, and individuals related to the Civil War**
	CERCA SET	**Economic Strategies in the Civil War** **The Transatlantic Slave Trade**

	DOMAIN	United States History
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSUSH11** **Examine connections between the rise of big business, the growth of labor unions, and technological innovations.**
	CERCA SET	**Time in the Industrial Revolution** **Technology and Impact**

	DOMAIN	United States History
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSUSH12** **Evaluate how westward expansion impacted the Plains Indians and fulfilled Manifest Destiny.**
	CERCA SET	**Westward Expansion**

	DOMAIN	United States History
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSUSH13** **Evaluate efforts to reform American society and politics in the Progressive Era.**
	CERCA SET	**Progressive Era Child Labor**

DOMAIN	United States History
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	SSUSH14 Explain America's evolving relationship with the world at the turn of the twentieth century.
CERCA SET	**Immigration through Ellis Island**

DOMAIN	United States History
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	SSUSH17 Analyze the causes and consequences of the Great Depression.
CERCA SET	**The Great Depression**

DOMAIN	United States History
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	SSUSH19 Examine the origins, major developments, and the domestic impact of World War II, including the growth of the federal government.
CERCA SET	**World War II**

DOMAIN	United States History
SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	SSUSH20 Analyze U.S. international and domestic policies including their influences on technological advancements and social changes during the Truman and Eisenhower administrations.
CERCA SET	**Cold War Set coming soon**

	DOMAIN	**United States History**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSUSH21 Analyze U.S. international and domestic policies including their influences on technological advancements and social changes during the Kennedy and Johnson. administrations**
	CERCA SET	**Cold War Set coming soon**
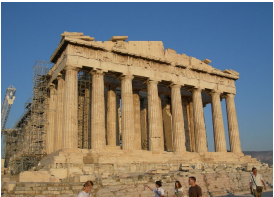
	DOMAIN	**United States History**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSUSH22 Analyze U.S. international and domestic policies including their influences on technological advancements and social changes during the Nixon, Ford, and Carter administrations.**
	CERCA SET	**Cold War Set coming soon**

World Geography

	DOMAIN	**Cultural Geography**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSWG2** **Evaluate how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.**
	CERCA SET	**Cultural Perception** **Personal Identity**

	DOMAIN	**Political Geography**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSWG3** **Evaluate how cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of the earth's surface.**
	CERCA SET	**World War II** **Conflict and Dominance**

	DOMAIN	**Population Geography**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSWG4** **Assess the characteristics, spatial distribution, and migration of human populations on the earth's surface.**
	CERCA SET	**Westward Expansion**

	DOMAIN	**Environmental Geography**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SWG5** **Analyze human interactions with the world's environments**
	CERCA SET	**Human Impact on Oceans** **Human Impact on Insect Biodiversity** **Human and Animal Interactions**

	DOMAIN	**Economic Geography**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSWG6** **Examine the spatial distribution of major economic systems and analyze the role geography plays in economic development.**
	CERCA SET	**Value** **Economic Disasters**

World History

	DOMAIN	World History
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSWH1** **Analyze the origins, structures, and interactions of societies in the ancient world from 3500 BCE/BC to 500 BCE/BC.**
	CERCA SET	**Afterlife in Ancient Egypt** **Ancient Maya** **The Art and Architecture of Ancient Greece**

	DOMAIN	World History
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSWH2** **Identify the major achievements of Chinese and Indian societies to 500 CE/AD.**
	CERCA SET	**Societal Hierarchies**

	DOMAIN	World History
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSWH3** **Examine the political, philosophical, and cultural interaction of Classical Mediterranean societies from 700 BCE/BC to 400 CE/AD.**
	CERCA SET	**The Art and Architecture of Ancient Greece**

	DOMAIN	World History
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSWH5** **Examine the political, economic, and cultural interactions within the Medieval Mediterranean World between 600 CE/AD and 1300 CE/AD.**
	CERCA SET	**The Black Death**

	DOMAIN	**World History**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSWH8** **Describe the diverse characteristics of societies in Central and South America**
	CERCA SET	**Ancient Maya**

	DOMAIN	**World History**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSWH9** **Analyze change and continuity in the Renaissance and Reformation.**
	CERCA SET	**The Art of the Renaissance**

	DOMAIN	**World History**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSWH10** **Analyze the causes and effects of exploration and expansion into the Americas, Africa, and Asia.**
	CERCA SET	**Christopher Columbus**

	DOMAIN	**World History**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSWH14** **Analyze the Age of Revolutions.**
	CERCA SET	**Thomas Paine and the Philosophy of Revolutions**

	DOMAIN	**World History**
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSWH15** **Describe the impact of industrialization and urbanization.**
	CERCA SET	**Time in the Industrial Revolution**

	DOMAIN	World History
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSWH19** **Demonstrate an understanding of the global political, economic, and social impact of World War II.**
	CERCA SET	**[World War II](#)**

	DOMAIN	World History
	SOCIAL STUDIES GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE	**SSWH20 Demonstrate an understanding of the global social, economic, and political impact of the Cold War and decolonization from 1945 to 1989.**
	CERCA SET	**Cold War Set coming soon.**

IV. Supporting Bilingual Learners

ThinkCERCA provides teachers with everything they need to support developing bilinguals in their academic English fluency. In addition to research-based approaches embedded in the pedagogy of our software, we provide direct instruction in standards-aligned practices that help developing bilinguals succeed. Review these resources at **https://thinkcerca.com/eld/**.

- Supports for English language development in any classroom setting
- Resources for students at a WIDA Level 3 and above
- Research-based best practices for developing bilinguals
- Online and offline tools and instructional practices, including speaking and listening activities

Conventions of Standard English Direct Instruction	ThinkCERCA's Direct Instruction lessons help students with conventions of standard English usage, mechanics and grammar, and parts of speech. They also provide instruction in discipline-specific, academic vocabulary across subjects.
Personal Connections Applied Reading and Writing	Each Applied Reading and Writing lesson provides an opportunity for students to connect personally with the topics in the text. By encouraging collaboration and peer-to-peer discussion, in a group, or even whole class, students engage in meaningful discussions and high-interest topics that expose them to the language they need to successfully navigate the world.
Tier 2 Vocabulary Direct Instruction, Applied Reading and Writing, Additional Reading Practice	Tier 2 vocabulary words with definitions are provided for pre-reading support. Explicit instruction in academic vocabulary helps students access content in disciplines.
Audio Support Direct Instruction, Applied Reading and Writing, Additional Reading Practice	All ThinkCERCA texts have audio support so students can listen to the text while reading along. Student have the option of listening multiple times or even listening to small sections of the text. Real human voices model fluent and expressive English and allow students to access texts beyond their independent English reading levels.
Non-Print Features Direct Instruction, Applied Reading and Writing, Additional Reading Practice	ThinkCERCA provides non-print features to support students in connecting to background knowledge and developing new meaning. The strong visuals in our Direct Instruction lessons and the images embedded in our texts, including infographics, multimedia, and video presentations, support learning for everyone, including English language learners.

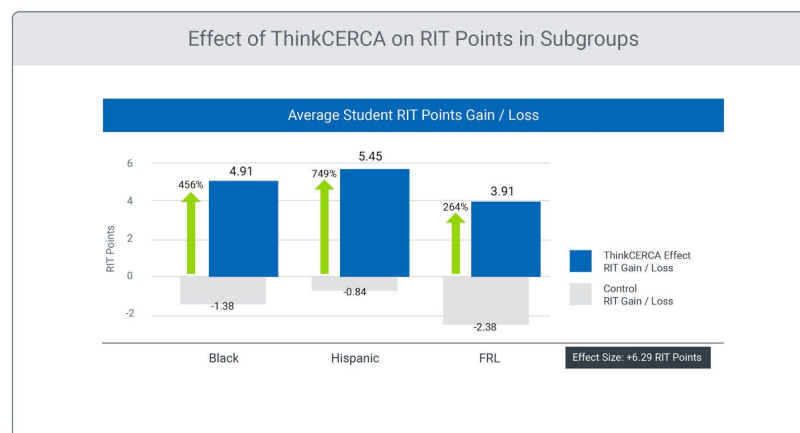|	
Sentence Frames Applied Reading and Writing Lessons	Sentence stems help students crack the code of college- and career-ready English. By understanding the most common frames and practicing them, students build confidence in their critical literacy skills.
Blended Learning and Small Groups Direct Instruction, Applied Reading and Writing, Additional Reading Practice	ThinkCERCA provides a framework for teachers to incorporate into small group instruction, independent collaboration, and individual personalized instruction in a blended learning environment. In this dynamic environment, students are given a variety of opportunities to engage with language through listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
Structure and Language of Genre Applied Reading and Writing, Additional Reading Practice	ThinkCERCA exposes students to the language of various genres and disciplines. The consistency of the text structures in the overview, summary, sentence frames, and counterargument gives students repeated exposure and familiarity with both structure and language.
Oral and Written Language Direct Instruction, Applied Reading and Writing, Additional Reading Practice	ThinkCERCA supports the critical relationship between oral and written language by requiring students to discuss and negotiate complex issues with multiple perspectives. Readings about debatable topics open up opportunities for structured conversations in small groups, with partners and as a whole class. Discussions require students to use accurate and relevant text-based information to support claims and to explain their reasons as well as reasoning. By toggling back and forth from text to conversation, and finding evidence to support thinking, students increase and deepen their understanding of the text at hand.
Culture Applied Reading and Writing, Additional Reading Practice	Readings respect and honor the cultures of multiple groups and offer broad representation of not only various cultures, but also discussions about global issues.

V. Implementation Results

Research-based Impact

ThinkCERCA is built upon an ever-growing body of research from institutions like the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research, which confirms that reading, writing, and argumentation three to five times per month across subjects helps students become career- and college-ready. Third-party efficacy data shows that students gain an average of 1.5 to 2.5 years of reading growth when ThinkCERCA is implemented with fidelity. More information at **www.thinkcerca.com/results**.

How Often Should My Students Use It to Have an Impact?

3-5
Applied Reading & Writing lessons per month
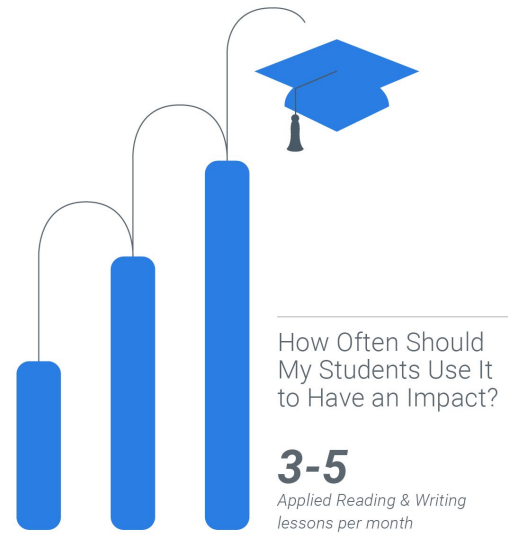
LEAP Innovations Controlled Study

On average, students using ThinkCERCA gained an extra year's worth of academic growth. This is equivalent to closing the achievement gap by 264 percent for low-income students, 456 percent for black students, and 749 percent for Latino students. Read the full study at **go.thinkcerca.com/leapstudy**

Effect of ThinkCERCA on RIT Points in Subgroups

Average Student RIT Points Gain / Loss

	Black	Hispanic	FRL
ThinkCERCA Effect	4.91 (456%)	5.45 (749%)	3.91 (264%)
Control RIT Gain / Loss	-1.38	-0.84	-2.38

Effect Size: +6.29 RIT Points

Leap Innovations, "Results from the LEAP Innovations Pilot Network" study, 2014-15

ThinkCERCA™

Atlantic Research Partners Third-Party Study

Students in grade levels with significant use of ThinkCERCA outperformed their peers nationally on NWEA growth at different attainment levels in the 2014-2015 academic school year. Read the full study at **go.thinkcerca.com/arpstudy**

Exhibit 3: Average RIT Scores for High ThinkCERCA Usage for Spring 2014 and Spring 2015

Average Pretest RIT | **Average Posttest RIT**

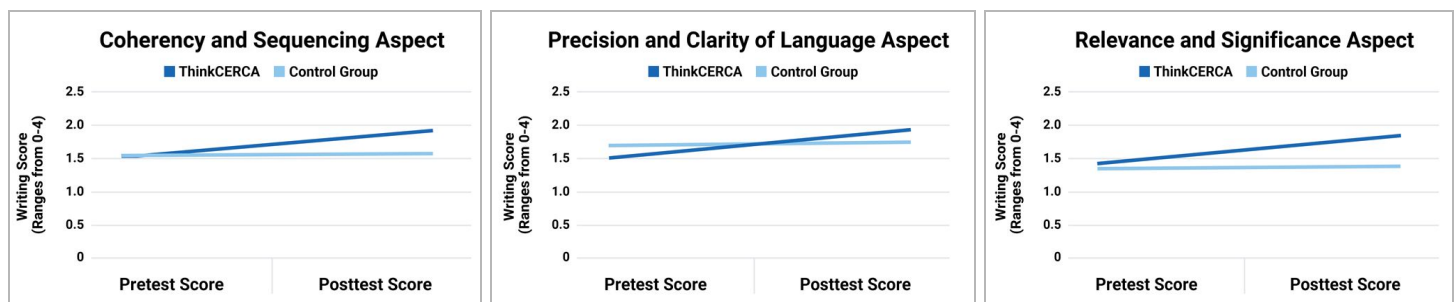|	MOY 4th	BOY 6th	MOY 4th	BOY 6th	MOY 5th	BOY 7th
	202.2	211.8 (1.5 years)	204.3	212.9 (1.5 years)	209.3	217.2 (1.5 years)

Grade Level: 3, 4, 5

Average Pretest RIT | **Average Posttest RIT**

	BOY 7th	MOY 8th	BOY 8th	11th +	11th +	11th +
	216.8	221.5 (1.5 years)	219.8	225.3 (2.5 years)	224.4	228.7 (2.5 years)

Grade Level: 6, 7, 8

Source: Atlantic Research Partners, "Literacy Instruction with ThinkCERCA: Findings from Chicago Public Schools" study, January 2016

SRI Education Controlled Study

Gains in student writing scores in the elementary grades were positive across all writing aspects and statistically significant for five of the six aspects. Read the full study at **go.thinkcerca.com/sristudy**

Coherency and Sequencing Aspect
■ ThinkCERCA ■ Control Group
Writing Score (Ranges from 0–4)
Pretest Score — Posttest Score

Precision and Clarity of Language Aspect
■ ThinkCERCA ■ Control Group
Writing Score (Ranges from 0–4)
Pretest Score — Posttest Score

Relevance and Significance Aspect
■ ThinkCERCA ■ Control Group
Writing Score (Ranges from 0–4)
Pretest Score — Posttest Score

Source: SRI Education, "Literacy Courseware Challenge Evaluation: Results of ThinkCERCA Participation" study, January 2016