

Supporting reading materials for the Common Core courses

1. Foundational Knowledge

Great Ideas Across Disciplines (Philosophy, Science, Literature, History)

Examines key texts (e.g., Plato, Darwin, Wolf) to explore how ideas shape societies.

Suggested readings might include works like *Antigone* by Sophocles, paired with James Baldwin's *An American Son*, to examine themes of loyalty, law, and personal tragedy. Other possibilities include selections from Plato's dialogues, especially on knowledge and citizenship, and Alice Munro's short stories to explore the human experience.

- ["The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy"](#)
by [Kenneth Pomeranz](#): Examines the economic factors that led to Europe's rise and China's relative decline in the modern era.
- ["Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies"](#)
by [Jared Diamond](#): Explores the environmental and geographical factors that shaped global history.
- ["The Silk Roads: A New History of the World"](#)
by [Peter Frankopan](#): Offers a global perspective on history, highlighting the interconnectedness of different regions.
- ["Against the Grain: A Deep History of the Earliest States"](#)
by [James C. Scott](#): Examines the origins of state formation and its social consequences.
- **Great Classical Novels** - *Dream of the Red Chamber*, *Journey to the West*, *Water Margin*, and *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*.

Quantitative Literacy courses include:

A quantitative and scientific literacy course should include readings that cover synthesizing quantitative data, understanding uncertainty, and modeling phenomena. It will also focus on the application of mathematical reasoning in real-world scenarios, including the use and misuse of quantitative information in science, technology, and society. For example,

Mathematics, fairness, and democracy

Should address mathematical topics that have close connections to politics: apportionment, voting, and weighted voting, fair division, and districting.

Quantitative Sustainability

Students should be exposed to how to describe quantitatively the many processes that affect the sustainable production and consumption of natural resources. They should use quantitative tools to create, analyze, and critique mathematical models relating to sustainability and learn how to communicate these results effectively. Topics vary based on student interest but may include climate change, epidemiology, population growth, energy, and agriculture.

2. Global and Cultural Competency

- **Cultural Literacy:** Many readings could be selected for the topics below:

Identity Formation,

[The Giver by Lois Lowry, 1993](#)

[Identity, Formation, Agency, and Culture by James E. Côté and Charles G. Levine, 2002](#)

Stereotypes and Prejudice,

[Alien Capital: Asian Racialization and the Logic of Settler Colonial Capitalism by By Iyko Day, 2016.](#)

Globalization,

[Why Globalization Works \(Yale Nota Bene\) by Martin Wolf, 2005](#)

[Globalization and Its Discontents, by Joseph Stiglitz, 2002.](#)

Global Challenges,

[This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate by Naomi Klein, 2014.](#)

Sustainable Development,

[The Age of Sustainable Development, by Jeffrey Sachs, 2015.](#)

- **Communication Styles**

Nonverbal Communication,

[The Power of Body Language: How to Succeed in Every Business and Social Encounter by Tonya Reiman, 2007.](#)

Building Relationships,

[Never Eat Alone: And Other Secrets to Success, One Relationship at a Time by Keith Ferrazzi, 2005.](#)

3. Practical Skills for the Future

- Design Thinking and Problem-Solving

[Design Thinking: Understanding How Designers Think and Work, by Nigel Cross, 2001.](#)

[The Design Thinking Playbook, by Michael Lewrick, 2017.](#)

- Digital Fluency

[Literacy for Digital Futures: Mind, Body, Text. by Kathy A. Mills, Laura Scholes, and Len Unsworth.](#)

[Digital Fluency: Understanding the Basics of Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain Technology, Quantum Computing, and Their Applications for Digital Transformation, by Volker Lang](#)

- Financial & Civic Literacy

[The Little Book of Common Sense Investing by John Bogle.](#)

[On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century, by Timothy Snyder, 2017.](#)

- Lifelong Learning:

The willingness to continue learning and developing new skills throughout one's career is essential for staying relevant. By focusing on these core and technical skills, individuals can prepare themselves for the challenges and opportunities of the future workplace.

[Ultralearning: Master Hard Skills, Outsmart the Competition, and Accelerate Your Career" by Scott H. Young, 2020.](#)

4. Experiential & Integrative Learning

Capstone Project
Work-integrated Learning
Reflective Portfolio

5. Wellness & Resilience

- Mindfulness & Mental Health

[Mindfulness: An Eight-Week Plan for Finding Peace in a Frantic World by Mark Williams and Danny Penman, 2011.](#)

[Full Catastrophe Living: Using the Wisdom of Your Body and Mind to Face Stress, Pain, and Illness by Jon Kabat-Zinn, 1990.](#)

[The Mindful Way Workbook: An 8-Week Program to Free Yourself from Depression and Emotional Distress](#) by John D. Teasdale, Mark Williams, Zindel V. Segal, and Jon Kabat-Zinn, 2011.

[The Things You Can See Only When You Slow Down: How to be Calm in a Busy World](#) by Haemin Sunim, 2017.

- **Ethics of Technology & Humanity**

[Virtue Ethics \(Aristotle\):](#)

[Utilitarianism \(e.g., Bentham, Mill\):](#)

[Deontology \(Kant\):](#)

[Case studies on AI bias:](#)

- **Physical Literacy**

Readings on Kinesiology provide ample readings to help students with physical fitness approaches.

[Your body doesn't lie: how to increase your life energy through behavioral kinesiology](#) by John Diamond. 1979.

[The Body Reset Diet, Revised Edition: Power Your Metabolism, Blast Fat, and Shed Pounds in Just 15 Days](#), Harley Pasternak, 2021