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LOUISIANA TEACHERS CREATE FREE, DIGITAL ENGLISH CURRICULUM NOW AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE ON LEARNZILLION

State partners with teachers to perfect digital curriculum and practical resources

BATON ROUGE, La. – Today, the [Louisiana Department of Education](#) (LDOE) announced the release of ELA [Guidebooks 2.0](#) – free, high-quality teacher-generated curriculum created in partnership with [LearnZillion](#). These digital resources are now available to any teacher in any state for free.

The new English language arts (ELA) Guidebooks, housed on LearnZillion, are classroom-ready daily lessons made by teachers for teachers to create a captivating learning environment in which students can succeed. LDOE released a series of Guidebooks for the 2015-16 school year that served as a reference for state policies, tools and rigorous curriculum options. Guidebooks 2.0 was created after educators asked for practical resources to guide their day-to-day work in the classroom.

“With the use of ELA Guidebooks 2.0 through LearnZillion, my students were more engaged,” said Layla Dupuy, a middle school English teacher at Devall Middle School in West Baton Rouge Parish. “The presentation materials kept my students focused on the task at hand and served as a visual reminder. The students had a deeper understanding of the concepts taught due to the scaffolding built into each lesson.”

Unlike textbooks, which often rely on creating original stories for lessons, ELA Guidebooks 2.0 provides a path for teachers to use classic literature and primary source documents for students at all levels. This allows districts and schools to use the free curriculum to build on the resources within their libraries.

Emily Howell, a teacher at Ruston High School in Lincoln Parish who also oversees the English curriculum and professional development for her district, wrote the “Romeo and Juliet” and “The Odyssey” units for ELA Guidebooks 2.0 alongside other ninth grade teachers who were using it in their classrooms.

“Guidebooks 2.0 provides the full picture for a unit,” said Howell. “Each lesson is tightly aligned with the unit assessment tasks. The concrete, explicit instructions help teachers know exactly what they could be doing throughout each lesson. Also, there are questions and prompts embedded throughout every lesson to help struggling students.”

Piloted in 147 classrooms in 10 districts throughout the state this spring with a few select units, this 3-12 English language arts curriculum now available to teachers nationwide will be complete this fall. Once fully built out, each grade level will have five unit options allowing school leaders the flexibility to choose the right units for their community.

[Teachers who piloted the new ELA Guidebooks](#) noted how helpful the resources were in their planning as well as for guiding all students to think and discuss their work more critically. Most teachers who participated said they would recommend the platform to a colleague.

“The transition to the higher standards definitely increased my planning workload, but the Guidebook units have eased that burden tremendously,” said Mallory Wall-Padgett, ninth grade English teacher at LaGrange High School in Calcasieu Parish. “The units are so solid that a teacher can teach them start-to-finish, without making any changes, and be confident that standards and skills have been fully addressed. By the same token, a teacher can modify or adjust the lessons to meet student, school and community needs.”

To learn more from a teacher who piloted Guidebooks 2.0., watch this [video](#). To access additional teacher-created free ELA and math curricula, visit [LearnZillion](#).

About LearnZillion:

LearnZillion combines the expertise of teachers with the power of technology to provide the curriculum and support needed to engage every student. Founded in 2011, LearnZillion initially grew out of the curriculum and practice developed during co-founder Eric Westendorf’s tenure as the principal at E.L. Haynes Public Charter School in Washington, D.C. One in three U.S. teachers use LearnZillion’s teacher-created, standards-aligned, free digital math and English language arts curriculum. The resources offered by LearnZillion will evolve based on the needs of public schools. To learn more, visit www.learnzillion.com.

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