**Resources for ACT/Aspire Performance Level Descriptors (PLD’s):**

**English**

***Production of Writing***

**Focus: (Grades 9-10)**

[**http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/3531**](http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/3531) **Provides an example paragraph that lacks focus. This is a good, short lesson for recognizing when writing is not focused and how to keep writing focused.**

**Cohesion and Coherence: (Provides explanation for all teachers, examples for 5-12.)**

[**https://www.uwb.edu/wacc/for-students/eslhandbook/coherence**](https://www.uwb.edu/wacc/for-students/eslhandbook/coherence)

**This site provides a good explanation of cohesion and coherence in writing. It also contains an example (for use in grades 5-12) of a paragraph that lacks cohesion, but that has been rewritten to show improvement.**

**Organization: (Provides good background for all teachers)**

[**http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/few/683**](http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/few/683) **This site provides a detailed explanation of organization and describes the five basic text structures for organizing writing. Since there is a natural overlap of organization and cohesion, a portion of this site is devoted to how the two work together.**

***Knowledge of Language***

**How Tone is Developed Regarding the Use of Informal and Formal Language (Provides good background for all teachers; examples for gr. 5-12)**

[**https://literarydevices.net/tone/**](https://literarydevices.net/tone/)

**Transition Words and Phrases (Provides good knowledge base for all teachers; use what is appropriate for your grade level.)**

<http://wp.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/UWC_handouts_Sentence-Transitions.pdf>

**List of Transition Words and Phrases (Grades 3-6)**

[**http://www.readingrockets.org/content/pdfs/transition%20words.pdf**](http://www.readingrockets.org/content/pdfs/transition%20words.pdf)

**Precise Language (All grade levels)**

[**https://www.roanestate.edu/owl/PreciseLanguage.html**](https://www.roanestate.edu/owl/PreciseLanguage.html)

***Conventions of Standard English***

**ACT Practice Quiz: (Grades 8-12)**

**This timed quiz contains 60 questions, and upon completion, gives immediate feedback, and provides resources to target weak areas (ex. “flashcards”)** [**https://www.varsitytutors.com/act\_english-practice-tests**](https://www.varsitytutors.com/act_english-practice-tests)

**Reading**

**Key Ideas and Details**

[**www.fcrr.org**](http://www.fcrr.org)

[**www.tpri.org**](http://www.tpri.org)

[**www.newsela.org**](http://www.newsela.org)

[**www.learnzillion.com**](http://www.learnzillion.com)

[**www.readworks.org**](http://www.readworks.org)

**Craft and Structure**

[**www.fcrr.org**](http://www.fcrr.org)

[**www.tpri.org**](http://www.tpri.org)

[**www.americaachieves.org**](http://www.americaachieves.org)

[**www.vermontwritingcollaborative.com**](http://www.vermontwritingcollaborative.com)

[**www.readworks.org**](http://www.readworks.org)

**Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**

[**www.readworks.org**](http://www.readworks.org)

[**www.newsela.org**](http://www.newsela.org)

[**www.ncscpartners.org**](http://www.ncscpartners.og)

[**www.learnzillion.com**](http://www.learnzillion.com)