

# Building a Relationship Between Basic and Common Core State Standards Skills

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The introduction and emphasis on the Common Core State Standards appears to obliterate or at least cast a shadow on the basic skills or rudimentary skills traditionally taught as the “foundation skills” on which all learning is believed to take place. Today, it generally is considered by most educators that the Common Core State Standards embed the K-12 skills that currently dominate what students are expected to master. It is further believed by educators that the “new” skills of the Common Core State Standards have taken precedence over the “old” or basic skills and that these “old” skills are somehow obliterated by the skills of the Common Core State Standards. However, the skills of the Common Core State Standards cannot be taught to the anticipated level of achievement touted by educators and members of the community without acknowledging their dependency on the “old” basic skills.

The interdependency between the basic and the Common Core State Standards skills can be illustrated by examining many different strategies. Each of these strategies reinforces the importance of recognizing how the basic skills support the skills of the Common Core State Standards. Each of these strategies is represented by a configuration or graphic visually emphasizing how the basic skill or skills and the skill of the Common Core State Standard are related to each other, facilitate the understanding and practice of both skills and the potential development of expertise of the skill of the Common Core State Standard.

## *Foundation Configuration*

This strategy illustrates how the skill of the Common Core State Standard (to reason logically) necessitates understanding the foundational skill of “sequencing.” In order to reason logically, it is imperative that students understand and apply the basic skills of sequencing or recognizing how and when the order of the information ensures its logical presentation. The introduction and explanation of each skill of the Common Core State Standard can be aligned to a basic skill or skill set also provides students with the opportunity to comprehend how the familiar and previously learned skills are fundamental to understanding and implementing the “new” Common Core State Standard skill. Following are examples of this strategy:

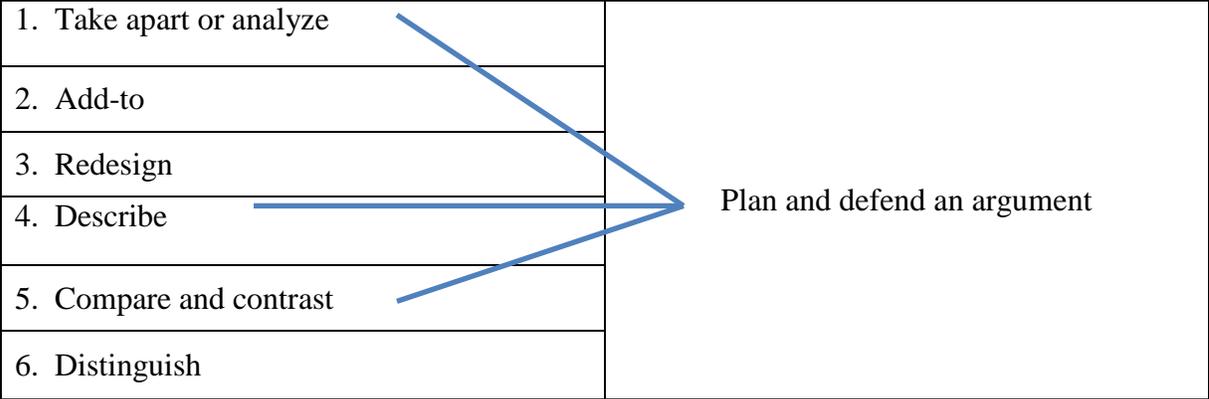
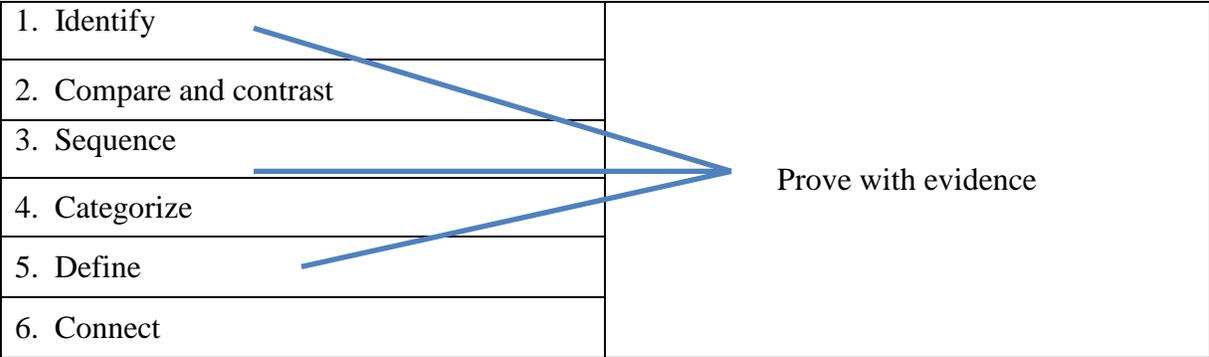
Common Core State Standard	Reasoning Logically
Basic Skill	Sequence

Common Core State Standard	Identify Central Theme
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Basic Skill	Identify the main idea, define, describe
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*Matching Configuration*

This strategy illustrates how the skill of the Common Core State Standard (prove with evidence) can be understood and implemented by relating it to basic skills that the students have mastered previously. The teacher introduces the skill of the Common Core State Standard and asks students to match the “new” skill to the basic skills that they have learned previously. The process of matching the list of basic skills the students have learned already to the new skills of the Common Core State Standard helps students break the barrier of learning the new skill and allows them to recognize how prior knowledge provides the impetus to learn the new skill.



Think about how you can teach the Common Sore State Standards to your students by utilizing these strategies.