TEST HELP GUIDANCE MCAS 2.0 Jan. 9, 2018 Kay Scheidler

1. Reading Questions: Use Part B **Evidence** choices as a way to validate the Part A close reading question
2. Visuals – pictures, drawings, photos -- are important - Use the visuals for context clues, to help to understand the reading passages! Practice this with all reading in advance of the test, build into the year-long literacy development.

WRITING

1. Short Response (Also called “Constructed Response”) questions are a paragraph (Gr 3, 4) as the “Open Response” question was.
2. Text based essay writing looks at a higher level of reading than the old Open Response question, which was just simple comprehension. Practice this type of question.
3. **Text-Based Essays** (Argument, Essay, Narrative) are one page at grades 3 – 5, two pages at grades 6 – 8.
4. Use the term “text-based essay” when having students write about a reading in your class, to have them get used to hearing this term that’s used on the test.
5. Have students underline or highlight the precise question asked in the Text-Based Essay question.
6. For Text-Based Essays, first generate evidence for the answer to the question asked, then come up with the response to the question in the writing, followed in writing with the text evidence