



# Teaching Authentic Language Arts in a Test-Driven Era (Transforming Teaching)

*Arthur T. Costigan*

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Most pre-service education students are enthusiastic about the progressive, constructivist, and student-centered theory and practice advocated in many teacher education programs and by the National Council of Teachers of English. Yet in actual day-to-day practice, teachers often have trouble thinking of ways in which such student-centered and constructivist practices in literacy instruction can be implemented in classrooms which are increasingly driven by high stakes tests, increased accountability, and mandated and even 'teacher proof' scripted curricula. *Teaching Authentic Language Arts in a Test-Driven Era* provides a powerful and much-needed counterargument to the assumption that test-driven curricula preclude meaningful instruction and authentic student engagement within a Language Arts curriculum. Providing teachers with the theoretical stances and pedagogical tools to develop a Language Arts practice which can be personally rewarding as well as beneficial to students, *Teaching Authentic Language Arts in a Test-Driven Era* empowers teachers to be effective even within the confines of a testing- and accountability-driven curriculum.

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