

Grades 1 – 2 ELA Cycle of Learning and Student Engagement Strategies

	In-Person	Distance
Provide students with a hook that will engage them.	<p>Use a storybook, video, picture, object, or interesting question to get students interested in the content. Ask students to start forming initial ideas, then have students discuss their ideas in pairs, groups, or as part of a whole-class discussion.</p> <p>Examples: Consider focusing on a social studies topic like, “How can you protect the things around you from being destroyed?” or a science investigation like, “Does the sun stay in the same spot all day? Share your thinking.”</p>	<p>Use similar hooks, but provide them on the platform that is accessible to the student at home. If instruction is provided synchronously, consider asking a few students to be ready to share after some “think time”. If asynchronous, provide questions that caregivers can ask to prompt students to share their thinking.</p>
Explain the purpose of the learning activity.	<p>Share the topic of the lesson, why it is important for students to learn, and how they will learn it. Provide any important context or vocabulary students will need to be successful in the lesson.</p> <p>Examples: “Today we will learn about what it means to be a good citizen” or “this week we are going to observe how the position of the sun may or may not change in a day.”</p>	<p>Share purpose/objective in a live or recorded video lesson. If using packets or another platform that will not include video, the introduction section may be geared more towards the caregiver helping the student with their learning.</p>
Introduce new information or allow students to engage in investigation	<p>This is where any new learning concepts are introduced to students. This could be through literature, videos, exploration, or simply telling.</p> <p>Examples: Students might read a story about what it means to be a good citizen or share what they noticed in their observations of the sun over the course of a day.</p>	<p>Any new material for students in a distance learning scenario will need to have something tangible for students to learn from.</p> <p>This could be a live or recorded video of the teacher, a video from another resource (like YouTube or Khan Academy), or a written guide or set of instructions.</p>



	<p>Anchor charts can help capture important information for future reference. For concepts that have been previously introduced but need to be revisited or practiced, this section is simply a review.</p>	<p>If caregivers will need to facilitate the new learning, consider making materials geared towards them as the audience, teaching them how to teach this concept to their students.</p>
<p>Provide opportunities for guided practice.</p>	<p>Students have the opportunity to practice and internalize new content with high levels of support from their teacher. This may include making a chart or visual together, having students answer a question or question set with the teacher or with a peer, or walking through a task or experience together.</p>	<p>This part of the lesson may be particularly hard in a distance learning scenario, especially if a lesson is not delivered synchronously. Doing “catch and release” instruction, where students are given a task, asked to do it, then brought back together can help, and this method can even be used in recorded videos by telling students to pause the video at key moments. If digital tools are not available, caregivers may need to step into the role of the teacher, working through the material with a student.</p>
<p>Check for understanding.</p>	<p>Teachers can listen to the conversations students are having in pairs or groups and observe their work during guided practice to gain a sense of their understanding. Teachers may also consider having students do a self check-in on where they believe their</p>	<p>There are many tools available as an aid to formative assessment. The lists here and here provide ample examples to explore. In synchronous lessons, simple features like polls, hand raising, and yes/no response buttons can help</p>