

Cursive Comeback



In many elementary schools, learning cursive is back on the schedule. Here's what students need to know.

LEXILE: 990L

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Time, Continuity, and Change

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.2, RI.6-8.6, SL.6-8.1

ENGAGE THE READER

To prepare for this lesson, open the image of the stone engraving of the Declaration of Independence at [ti.me/Declaration](https://www.time.com/time/declaration). Take screenshots of a few sections and post them for students. Ask them to copy the text into a notebook. Then bring the class together and see if students were able to read the cursive text. Was this a difficult assignment? Ask students to raise a hand if they can read cursive. Ask those who can also write in cursive to keep their hands raised. Take a class poll to see if students think learning cursive is important. Tally the responses.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- According to the article, which states have brought back teaching cursive?
- What are the pros and cons of learning cursive? Which side are you on?
- Do you think technology changes the need for cursive instruction? How might the need change in the future?

EXTEND LEARNING

Bring the class back together. Ask students to return to the article and to underline details they disagree with and circle those they agree with. Call on volunteers to share and explain their opinions. After a discussion, take another class poll to see if anyone's opinion about cursive has changed. Is cursive taught in your state? Do students wish they learned it in elementary school? Share with the class whether you learned cursive when you were in school, and if so, when.

Explain that one thing that people still use cursive for is signing their name. Have students try to sign their name without any instruction. Then provide them with a cursive alphabet to practice writing their name. After sufficient practice, have students sign an index card. Leave all the index cards out and see if students can identify the signers.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

Make a copy of the Google Form quiz for "Cursive Comeback" [here](#).

1. D (RI.4) **2. C** (RI.1) **3. B** (RI.6) **4. A** (RI.9) **5. C** (RI.1)
6. A (RI.5) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.1)