

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS FOR

English Language Arts
&
Literacy in History/Social Studies,
Science, and Technical Subjects

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The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects (“the Standards”) are the culmination of an extended, broad-based effort to fulfill the charge issued by the states to create the next generation of K–12 standards in order to help ensure that all students are college and career ready in literacy no later than the end of high school.

The present work, led by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors Association (NGA), builds on the foundation laid by states in their decades-long work on crafting high-quality education standards. The Standards also draw on the most important international models as well as research and input from numerous sources, including state departments of education, scholars, assessment developers, professional organizations, educators from kindergarten through college, and parents, students, and other members of the public. In their design and content, refined through successive drafts and numerous rounds of feedback—and many standards also in development—these standards represent a significant effort to ensure that all students are college and career ready in literacy no later than the end of high school.

CCR and grade-specific standards

The CCR standards anchor the document and define general, cross-disciplinary literacy expectations that must be met for students to be prepared to enter college and workforce training programs ready to succeed. The K–12 grade-specific standards define end-of-year expectations and a cumulative progression designed to enable students to meet college and career readiness expectations no later than the end of high school. The CCR and high school (grades 9–12) standards work in tandem to define the college and career readiness line—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity. Hence, both should be considered when developing college and career readiness assessments.

Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards, retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades, and work steadily toward meeting the more general expectations described by the CCR standards.

Grade levels for K-8; grade bands for 9-10 and 11-12

The Standards use individual grade levels in kindergarten through grade 8 to provide useful specificity; the Standards use two-year bands in grades 9–12 to allow schools, districts, and states flexibility in high school course design.

A focus on results rather than means

By emphasizing required achievements, the Standards leave room for teachers, curriculum developers, and states to determine how those goals should be reached and what additional topics should be addressed. Thus, the Standards do not mandate such things as a particular writing process or the full range of metacognitive strategies that students may need to monitor and direct their thinking and learning. Teachers are thus free to provide students with the tools that they choose.

Distribution of Literary and Informational Passages by Grade in the 2009 NAEP Reading Framework

Grade	Literary	Informational
4	50%	50%
8	45%	55%
12	30%	70%

Source: National Assessment Governing Board. (2008). *Reading framework for the 2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

The Standards aim to align instruction with this framework so that many more students than at present can meet the requirements of college and career readiness. In K–5, the Standards follow NAEP’s lead in balancing the reading of literature with the reading of informational texts, including texts in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects. In accord with NAEP’s growing emphasis on informational texts in the higher grades, the Standards demand that a significant amount of reading of informational texts take place in and outside the ELA classroom. Fulfilling the Standards for 6–12 ELA requires much greater attention to a specific category of informational text—literary nonfiction—than has been traditional. Because the ELA classroom must focus on literature (stories, drama, and poetry) as well as literary nonfiction, a great deal of informational reading in grades 6–12 must take place in other classes if the NAEP assessment framework is to be matched instructionally.¹ To measure students’ growth toward college and career readiness, assessments aligned with the Standards should adhere to the distribution of texts across grades cited in the NAEP framework.

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1. The Standards define what all students are expected to know and be able to do, not how teachers should teach. For instance, the use of play with young children is not specified by the Standards, but it is welcome as a valuable activity in its own right and as a way to help students meet the expectations in this document. Furthermore, while the Standards make references to some particular forms of content, including mythology, foundational U.S. documents, and Shakespeare, they do not—indeed, cannot—enumerate all or even most of the content that students should learn. The Standards must therefore

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How to Read This Document

Overall Document Organization

The Standards comprise three main sections: a comprehensive K–5 section and two content area–specific sections for grades 6–12, one for ELA and one for history/social studies, science, and technical subjects. Three appendices accompany the main document.

Each section is divided into strands. K–5 and 6–12 ELA have Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language strands; the 6–12 history/ social studies, science, and technical subjects section focuses on Reading and Writing. Each strand is headed by a strand-specific set of College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards that is identical across all grades and content areas.

Standards for each grade within K–8 and for grades 9–10 and 11–12 follow the CCR anchor standards in each strand. Each grade-specific standard (as these standards are collectively referred to) corresponds to the same-numbered CCR anchor standard. Put another way, each CCR anchor standard has an accompanying grade-specific standard translating the broader CCR statement into grade-appropriate end-of-year expectations.

Individual CCR anchor standards can be identified by their strand, CCR status, and number (R.CCR.6, for example). Individual grade-specific standards can be identified by their strand, grade, and number (or number and letter, where applicable), so that RI.4.3, for example, stands for Reading, Informational Text, grade 4, standard 3 and W.5.1a stands for Writing, grade 5, standard 1a. Strand designations can be found in brackets along with the strand name in the table of contents. The table of contents lists standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening.

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College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading

The K–5 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

Key Ideas and Details

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Craft and Structure

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.*
8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

Reading Standards for Literature K–5

The following standards offer a focus for instruction each year and help ensure that students gain adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is also infused through the requirement that students read increasingly complex texts through the grades. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

Kindergartners:		Grade 1 students:		Grade 2 students:	
Key Ideas and Details					
1.	With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	1.	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	1.	Ask and answer such questions as <i>who</i> , <i>what</i> , <i>where</i> , <i>when</i> , <i>why</i> , and <i>how</i> to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
2.	With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details.	2.	Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.	2.	Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
3.	With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.	3.	Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.	3.	Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
Craft and Structure					
4.	Ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.	4.	Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.	4.	Describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song.
5.	Recognize common types of texts (e.g., storybooks, poems).	5.	Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information, drawing on a wide reading of a range of text types.	5.	Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.
6.	With prompting and support, name the author and illustrator of a story and define the role of each in telling the story.	6.	Identify who is telling the story at various points in a text.	6.	Acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas					
7.	With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear (e.g., what moment in a story an illustration depicts).	7.	Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.	7.	Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.
8.	(Not applicable to literature)	8.	(Not applicable to literature)	8.	(Not applicable to literature)
9.	With prompting and support, compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories.	9.	Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.	9.	Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story (e.g., Cinderella stories) by different authors or from different cultures.
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity					
10.	Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.	10.	With prompting and support, read prose and poetry of appropriate complexity for grade 1.	10.	By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories and poetry, in the grades 2–3 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

Reading Standards for Literature K–5

Grade 3 students:		Grade 4 students:		Grade 5 students:	
Key Ideas and Details					
1.	Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.	1.	Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.	1.	Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
2.	Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.	2.	Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.	2.	Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.
3.	Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.	3.	Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).	3.	Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).
Craft and Structure					
4.	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.	4.	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).	4.	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.
5.	Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text, using terms such as chapter, scene, and stanza; describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections.	5.	Explain major differences between poems, drama, and prose, and refer to the structural elements of poems (e.g., verse, rhythm, meter) and drama (e.g., casts of characters, settings, descriptions, dialogue, stage directions) when writing or speaking about a text.	5.	Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fits together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, drama, or poem.
6.	Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.	6.	Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the difference between first- and third-person narrations.	6.	Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas					
7.	Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting).	7.	Make connections between the text of a story or drama and a visual or oral presentation of the text, identifying where each version reflects specific descriptions and directions in the text.	7.	Analyze how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text (e.g., graphic novel, multimedia presentation of fiction, folktale, myth, poem).
8.					

Reading Standards for Informational Text K–5

Grade 3 students:		Grade 4 students:		Grade 5 students:	
Key Ideas and Details					
1.	Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.	1.	Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.	1.	Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
2.	Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.	2.	Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.	2.	Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.
3.	Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.	3.	Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.	3.	Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.
Craft and Structure					
4.	Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a <i>grade 3 topic or subject area</i> .	4.	Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a <i>grade 4 topic or subject area</i> .	4.	Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a <i>grade 5 topic or subject area</i> .
5.	Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.	5.	Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.	5.	Compare and contrast the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in two or more texts.
6.	Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.	6.	Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in focus and the information provided.	6.	Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the point of view they represent.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas					
7.	Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).	7.	Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.	7.	Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.
8.	Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., how details support the main idea or thesis, how specific sentences in the text relate to the overall structure and purpose, how the text is organized into paragraphs).	8.	Describe how the ideas and information in a text are related to the overall structure and purpose, and how the text is organized into paragraphs.	8.	Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and electronically, and explain how the ideas and information in a text are related to the overall structure and purpose, and how the text is organized into paragraphs.

Reading Standards: Foundational Skills (K–5)

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Reading Standards: Foundational Skills (K–5)

Note: In kindergarten children are expected to demonstrate increasing awareness and competence in the areas that follow.

Kindergartners:	Grade 1 students:	Grade 2 students:
Phonics and Word Recognition		
3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words. a. Demonstrate basic knowledge of one-to-one letter-sound correspondences by producing the primary sound or many of the most frequent sounds for each consonant. b. Associate the long and short sounds with common spellings (graphemes) for the five major vowels. c. Read common high-frequency words by sight (e.g., <i>the, of, to, you, she, my, is, are, do, does</i>). d. Distinguish between similarly spelled words by identifying the sounds of the letters that differ.	3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words. a. Know the spelling-sound correspondences for common consonant digraphs. b. Decode regularly spelled one-syllable words. c. Know final -e and common vowel team conventions for representing long vowel sounds. d. Use knowledge that every syllable must have a vowel sound to determine the number of syllables in a printed word. e. Decode two-syllable words following basic patterns by breaking the words into syllables. f. Read words with inflectional endings. g. Recognize and read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words.	3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words. a. Distinguish long and short vowels when reading regularly spelled one-syllable words. b. Know spelling-sound correspondences for additional common vowel teams. c. Decode regularly spelled two-syllable words with long vowels. d. Decode words with common prefixes and suffixes. e. Identify words with inconsistent but common spelling-sound correspondences. f. Recognize and read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words.
Fluency		
4. Read emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding.	4. Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension. a. Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding. b. Read grade-level text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings. c. Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.	4. Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension. a. Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding. b. Read grade-level text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings. c. Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

Reading Standards: Foundational Skills (K–5)

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Grade 3 students:	Grade 4 students:	Grade 5 students:

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College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

The K–5 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

Text Types and Purposes*

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- 2.

Writing Standards K–5

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Grade 3 students:	Grade 4 students:	Grade 5 students:
Text Types and Purposes		

1.

Writing Standards K–5

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Grade 3 students:	Grade 4 students:	Grade 5 students:
Production and Distribution of Writing		
4. With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)	4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)	4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grade 3 on page 29.)	5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grade 4 on page 29.)	5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grade 5 on page 29.)

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The following standards for K–5 offer a focus for instruction each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications.

Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.

Kindergartners:	Grade 1 students:	Grade 2 students:
Comprehension and Collaboration Anchor Standard 1: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 2: Language Anchor Standard 3: Reading Anchor Standard 4: Writing Anchor Standard 5: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 6: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 7: Language Anchor Standard 8: Reading Anchor Standard 9: Writing Anchor Standard 10: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 11: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 12: Language Anchor Standard 13: Reading Anchor Standard 14: Writing Anchor Standard 15: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 16: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 17: Language Anchor Standard 18: Reading Anchor Standard 19: Writing Anchor Standard 20: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 21: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 22: Language Anchor Standard 23: Reading Anchor Standard 24: Writing Anchor Standard 25: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 26: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 27: Language Anchor Standard 28: Reading Anchor Standard 29: Writing Anchor Standard 30: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 31: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 32: Language Anchor Standard 33: Reading Anchor Standard 34: Writing Anchor Standard 35: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 36: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 37: Language Anchor Standard 38: Reading Anchor Standard 39: Writing Anchor Standard 40: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 41: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 42: Language Anchor Standard 43: Reading Anchor Standard 44: Writing Anchor Standard 45: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 46: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 47: Language Anchor Standard 48: Reading Anchor Standard 49: Writing Anchor Standard 50: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 51: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 52: Language Anchor Standard 53: Reading Anchor Standard 54: Writing Anchor Standard 55: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 56: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 57: Language Anchor Standard 58: Reading Anchor Standard 59: Writing Anchor Standard 60: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 61: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 62: Language Anchor Standard 63: Reading Anchor Standard 64: Writing Anchor Standard 65: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 66: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 67: Language Anchor Standard 68: Reading Anchor Standard 69: Writing Anchor Standard 70: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 71: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 72: Language Anchor Standard 73: Reading Anchor Standard 74: Writing Anchor Standard 75: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 76: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 77: Language Anchor Standard 78: Reading Anchor Standard 79: Writing Anchor Standard 80: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 81: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 82: Language Anchor Standard 83: Reading Anchor Standard 84: Writing Anchor Standard 85: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 86: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 87: Language Anchor Standard 88: Reading Anchor Standard 89: Writing Anchor Standard 90: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 91: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 92: Language Anchor Standard 93: Reading Anchor Standard 94: Writing Anchor Standard 95: Language Acquisition Anchor Standard 96: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard 97: Language Anchor Standard 98: Reading Anchor Standard 99: Writing Anchor Standard 100: Language Acquisition		

Language Standards K–5

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The following standards for grades K–5 offer a focus for instruction each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year’s grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.* Beginning in grade 3, skills and understandings that are particularly likely to require continued attention in higher grades as they are applied to increasingly sophisticated writing and speaking are marked with an asterisk (*). See the table on page 30 for a complete list and Appendix A for an example of how these skills develop in sophistication.

Kindergartners:	Grade 1 students:	Grade 2 students:
Conventions of Standard English		
1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. a. Print many upper- and lowercase letters. b. Use frequently occurring nouns and verbs. c. Form regular plural nouns orally by adding /s/ or /es/ (e.g., <i>dog, dogs; wish, wishes</i>). d. Understand and use question words (interrogatives) (e.g., <i>who, what, where, when, why, how</i>). e. Use the most frequently occurring prepositions (e.g., <i>to, from, in, out, on, off, for, of, by, with</i>). f. Produce and expand complete sentences in shared language activities.	1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. a. Print all upper- and lowercase letters. b. Use common, proper, and possessive nouns. c. Use singular and plural nouns with matching verbs in basic sentences (e.g., <i>He hops; We hop</i>). d. Use personal, possessive, and indefinite pronouns (e.g., <i>I, me, my; they, them, their; anyone, everything</i>). e. Use verbs to convey a sense of past, present, and future (e.g., <i>Yesterday I walked; I am walking; I will walk</i>).	

Language Standards K–5

Kindergartners:	Grade 1 students:	Grade 2 students:
Knowledge of Language		
3. (Begins in grade 2)	3. (Begins in grade 2)	3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. a. Compare formal and informal uses of English.
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use		
4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on <i>kindergarten reading and content</i> . a. Identify new meanings for familiar words and apply them accurately (e.g., knowing <i>duck</i> is a bird and learning the verb <i>to duck</i>). b. Use the most frequently occurring inflections and affixes (e.g., -ed, -s, re-, un-, pre-, -ful, -less) as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word.	4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on <i>grade 1 reading and content</i> , choosing flexibly from an array of strategies. a. Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. b. Use frequently occurring affixes as a clue to the meaning of a word. c. Identify frequently occurring root words (e.g., <i>look</i>) and their inflectional forms (e.g., <i>looks, looked, looking</i>).	4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on <i>grade 2 reading and content</i> , choosing flexibly from an array of strategies. a. Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. b. Determine the meaning of the new word formed when a known prefix is added to a known word (e.g., <i>happy/unhappy, tell/retell</i>). c. Use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., <i>addition, additional</i>). d. Use knowledge of the meaning of individual words to predict the meaning of compound words (e.g., <i>birdhouse, lighthouse, housefly; bookshelf, notebook, bookmark</i>). e. Use glossaries and beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases.
5. With guidance and support from adults, explore word relationships and nuances in word meanings. a. Sort common objects into categories (e.g., shapes, foods) to gain a sense of the concepts the categories represent. b. Demonstrate understanding of frequently occurring verbs and adjectives by relating them to their opposites (antonyms). c. Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., note places at school that are <i>colorful</i>). d. Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs describing the same general action (e.g., <i>walk, march, strut, prance</i>) by acting out the meanings.	5. With guidance and support from adults, demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings. a. Sort words into categories (e.g., colors, clothing) to gain a sense of the concepts the categories represent. b. Define words by category and by one or more key attributes (e.g., a <i>duck</i> is a bird that swims; a <i>tiger</i> is a large cat with stripes). c. Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., note places at home that are <i>cozy</i>). d. Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs differing in manner (e.g., <i>look, peek, glance, stare, glare, scowl</i>) and adjectives differing in intensity (e.g., <i>large, gigantic</i>) by defining or choosing them or by acting out the meanings.	5. Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings. a. Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., describe foods that are <i>spicy</i> or <i>juicy</i>). b. Distinguish shades of meaning among closely related verbs (e.g., <i>toss, throw, hurl</i>) and closely related adjectives (e.g., <i>thin, slender, skinny, scrawny</i>).
6. Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts.	6. Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts, including using fre-	

Language Standards K–5

L

Grade 3 students:	Grade 4 students:	Grade 5 students:
Conventions of Standard English		
1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. a. Explain the function of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in general and their functions in particular sentences. b. Form and use regular and irregular plural nouns. c. Use abstract nouns (e.g., <i>childhood</i>). d. Form and use regular and irregular verbs. e. Form and use the simple (e.g., <i>I walked</i>; <i>I walk</i>; <i>I will walk</i>) verb tenses. f. Ensure subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement.* g. Form and use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs, and choose between them depending on what is to be modified. h. Use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. i. Produce simple, compound, and complex sentences.	1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. a. Use relative pronouns (<i>who</i>, <i>whose</i>, <i>whom</i>, <i>which</i>, <i>that</i>) to connect clauses and phrases and to form and give meaning to simple and complex sentences. b. Form and use regular and irregular plural nouns. c. Form and use regular and irregular verbs. d. Form and use the simple (e.g., <i>I walked</i>; <i>I walk</i>; <i>I will walk</i>) verb tenses. e. Ensure subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement.* f. Form and use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs, and choose between them depending on what is to be modified. g. Form and use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. h. Produce simple, compound, and complex sentences.	1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. a. Use relative pronouns (<i>who</i>, <i>whose</i>, <i>whom</i>, <i>which</i>, <i>that</i>) to connect clauses and phrases and to form and give meaning to simple and complex sentences. b. Form and use regular and irregular plural nouns. c. Form and use regular and irregular verbs. d. Form and use the simple (e.g., <i>I walked</i>; <i>I walk</i>; <i>I will walk</i>) verb tenses. e. Ensure subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement.* f. Form and use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs, and choose between them depending on what is to be modified. g. Form and use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. h. Produce simple, compound, and complex sentences.

Language Standards K–5

Grade 3 students:	Grade 4 students:	Grade 5 students:
Knowledge of Language		
3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. - Choose words and phrases for effect.* - Recognize and observe differences between the conventions of spoken and written standard English.	3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. - Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.* - Choose punctuation for effect.* - Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English (e.g., presenting ideas) and situations where informal discourse is appropriate (e.g., small-group discussion).	3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. - Expand, combine, and reduce sentences for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style. - Compare and contrast the varieties of English (e.g., dialects, registers) used in stories, dramas, or poems.
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use		
4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on <i>grade 3 reading and content</i>, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. - Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. - Determine the meaning of the new word formed when a known affix is added to a known word (e.g., <i>agreeable/disagreeable</i>, <i>comfortable/uncomfortable</i>, <i>care/careless</i>, <i>heat/preheat</i>). - Use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., <i>company</i>, <i>companion</i>). - Use glossaries or beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.	4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on <i>grade 4 reading and content</i>, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. - Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. - Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., <i>telegraph</i>, <i>photograph</i>, <i>autograph</i>). - Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.	4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on <i>grade 5 reading and content</i>, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. - Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. - Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., <i>photograph</i>, <i>photosynthesis</i>). - Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.
5. Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings. - Distinguish the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases in context (e.g., <i>take steps</i>). - Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., describe people who are <i>friendly</i> or <i>helpful</i>). - Distinguish shades of meaning among related words that describe states of mind or degrees of certainty (e.g., <i>knew</i>, <i>believed</i>, <i>suspected</i>, <i>heard</i>, <i>wondered</i>).	5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. - Explain the meaning of simple similes and metaphors (e.g., <i>as pretty as a picture</i>) in context. - Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs. - Demonstrate understanding of words by relating them to their opposites (antonyms) and to words with similar but not identical meanings (synonyms).	5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. - Interpret figurative language, including similes and metaphors, in context. - Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs. - Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonyms, antonyms, homographs) to better understand each of the words.
6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal spatial and temporal relationships (e.g., <i>After dinner that night we went looking for them</i>).	6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., <i>quizzed</i>, <i>whined</i>, <i>stammered</i>) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., <i>wildlife</i>, <i>conservation</i>, and <i>endangered</i> when discussing animal preservation).	6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal contrast, addition, and other logical relationships (e.g., <i>however</i>, <i>although</i>, <i>nevertheless</i>, <i>similarly</i>, <i>moreover</i>, <i>in addition</i>).

Language Progressive Skills, by Grade

The following skills, marked with an asterisk (*) in Language standards 1–3, are particularly likely to require continued attention in higher grades as they are applied to increasingly sophisticated writing and speaking.

Measuring Text Complexity: Three Factors

Qualitative evaluation of the text: Levels of meaning, structure, language conventionality and clarity, and knowledge demands

Quantitative evaluation of the text: Readability measures and other scores of text complexity

Matching reader to text and task: Reader variables (such as motivation, knowledge, and

	Literature: Stories, Drama, Poetry	Informational Texts: Literary Nonfiction and Historical, Scientific, and Technical Texts
K*	<i>Over in the Meadow</i> by John Langstaff (traditional) (c1800)* <i>A Boy, a Dog, and a Frog</i> by Mercer Mayer (1967) <i>Pancakes for Breakfast</i> by Tomie DePaola (1978) <i>A Story, A Story</i> by Gail E. Haley (1970)* <i>Kitten's First Full Moon</i> by Kevin Henkes (2004)*	<i>My Five Senses</i> by Alikei (1962)** <i>Truck</i> by Donald Crews (1980) <i>I Read Signs</i> by Tana Hoban (1987) <i>What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?</i> by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page (2003)* <i>Amazing Whales!</i> by Sarah L. Thomson (2005)*
1*	"Mix a Pancake" by Christina G. Rossetti (1893)** <i>Mr. Popper's Penguins</i> by Richard Atwater (1938)* <i>Little Bear</i> by Else Holmelund Minarik, illustrated by Maurice Sendak (1957)** <i>Frog and Toad Together</i> by Arnold Lobel (1971)** <i>Hi! Fly Guy</i> by Tedd Arnold (2006)	<i>A Tree Is a Plant</i> by Clyde Robert Bulla, illustrated by Stacey Schuett (1960)** <i>Starfish</i> by Edith Thacher Hurd (1962) <i>Follow the Water from Brook to Ocean</i> by Arthur Dorros (1991)** <i>From Seed to Pumpkin</i> by Wendy Pfeffer, illustrated by James Graham Hale (2004)* <i>How People Learned to Fly</i> by Fran Hodgkins and True Kelley (2007)*
2–3	"Who Has Seen the Wind?" by Christina G. Rossetti (1893) <i>Charlotte's Web</i> by E. B. White (1952)* <i>Sarah, Plain and Tall</i> by Patricia MacLachlan (1985) <i>Tops and Bottoms</i> by Janet Stevens (1995) <i>Poppleton in Winter</i> by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Mark Teague (2001)	<i>A Medieval Feast</i> by Alikei (1983) <i>From Seed to Plant</i> by Gail Gibbons (1991) <i>The Story of Ruby Bridges</i> by Robert Coles (1995)* <i>A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder</i> by Walter Wick (1997) <i>Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11</i> by Brian Floca (2009)
4–5	<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> by Lewis Carroll (1865) "Casey at the Bat" by Ernest Lawrence Thayer (1888) <i>The Black Stallion</i> by Walter Farley (1941) "Zlateh the Goat" by Isaac Bashevis Singer (1984) <i>Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</i> by Grace Lin (2009)	<i>Discovering Mars: The Amazing Story of the Red Planet</i> by Melvin Berger (1992) <i>Hurricanes: Earth's Mightiest Storms</i> by Patricia Lauber (1996) <i>A History of US</i> by Joy Hakim (2005) <i>Horses</i> by Seymour Simon (2006) <i>Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest</i> by Patricia Lauber (2006)

Staying on Topic Within a Grade and Across Grades:

How to Build Knowledge Systematically in English Language Arts K–5

Building knowledge systematically in English language arts is like giving children various pieces of a puzzle in each grade that, over time, will form one big picture. At a curricular or instructional level, texts—within and across grade levels—need to be selected around topics or themes that systematically develop the knowledge





STANDARDS FOR

English Language Arts

6-12

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading

The grades 6–12 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

Key Ideas and Details

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Craft and Structure

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively as well as in traditional print, digital, and electronic formats.

Reading Standards for Literature 6–12

RL

Grade 6 students:

Grade 7 students:

Grade 8 students:

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio or video recording of the same work.

R

Grades 9–10 students:		Grades 11–12 students:	
Key Ideas and Details			
1.	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	1.	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
2.	Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.	2.	Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.
3.	Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.	3.	Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).
Craft and Structure			
4.	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes	4.	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes

Reading Standards for Informational Text 6–12

RI

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Key Ideas and Details		
1. Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	1. Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	1. Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
2. Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.	2. Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.	2. Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.
3. Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced and developed to support	3. Analyze how multiple perspectives interact to support	3. Analyze how multiple perspectives interact to support

R

R

R

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

The grades 6–12 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

Text Types and Purposes*

- 1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- 2. Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, analyze issues and events, make comparisons, support conclusions, and analyze the relationships between one or more subjects and ideas.

Writing Standards 6–12

W

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
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Text Types and Purposes (continued)

3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
- a. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view.

Writing Standards 6–12

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Research to Build and Present Knowledge		
7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.	7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.	7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources.	8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.	8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. a. Apply <i>grade 6 Reading standards</i> to literature (e.g., “Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres [e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories] in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics”). b. Apply <i>grade 6 Reading standards</i> to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not”).	9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. a. Apply <i>grade 7 Reading standards</i> to literature (e.g., “Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history”). b. Apply <i>grade 7 Reading standards</i> to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims”).	9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. a. Apply <i>grade 8 Reading standards</i> to literature (e.g., “Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new”). b. Apply <i>grade 8 Reading standards</i> to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced”).
Range of Writing		
10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.	10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.	10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

W

Writing Standards 6–12

W

Grades 9–10 students:

Grades 11–12 students:

Research to Build and Present Knowledge (continued)

- 9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
 - a. Apply *grades 9–10 Reading standards* to literature (e.g., “Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work [e.g., how Shakespeare treats a theme or topic from Ovid or the Bible or how a later author draws on a play by Shakespeare]”).
 - b. Apply *grades 9–10 Reading standards* to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning”).

- 9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
 - a. Apply *grades 11–12 Reading standards* to literature (e.g., “Demonstrate knowledge of eighteenth-, nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century foundational works of American literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics”).
 - b. Apply *grades 11–12 Reading standards* to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the reasoning in seminal U.S. texts, including the application of constitutional principles and use of legal reasoning [e.g., in U.S. Supreme Court Case majority opinions and dissents] and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy [e.g., *The Federalist*, presidential addresses]”).

Range of Writing

- 10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

- 10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening

The grades 6–12 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

Comprehension and Collaboration

1.

Speaking and Listening Standards 6–12

SL

Speaking and Listening Standards 6–12

The CCR anchor standards and high school grade-specific standards work in tandem to define college and career readiness expectations—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity.

Grades 9–10 students:		Grades 11–12 students:	
Comprehension and Collaboration			
1.	Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on <i>grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues</i> , building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively. a. Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas. b. Work with peers to set rules for collegial discussions and decision-making (e.g., informal consensus, taking votes on key issues, presentation of alternate views), clear goals and deadlines, and individual roles as needed. c. Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions. d. Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views and understanding and make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.	1.	Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on <i>grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues</i> , building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively. a. Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas. b. Work with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and deadlines, and establish individual roles as needed. c. Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that probe reasoning and evidence; ensure a hearing for a full range of positions on a topic or issue; clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions; and promote divergent and creative perspectives. d. Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task.
2.	Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source.	2.	Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among the data.
3.	Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, identifying any fallacious reasoning or exaggerated or distorted evidence.	3.	Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used.
Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas			
4.	Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.	4.	Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed, and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range of formal and informal tasks.
5.	Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.	5.	Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.
6.	Adapt speech to a task and purpose.		

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Language

The grades 6–12 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

Conventions of Standard English

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Knowledge of Language

3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.
5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
- 6.

Language Standards 6–12

The following standards for grades 6–12 offer a focus for instruction each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.* Beginning in grade 3, skills and understandings that are particularly likely to require continued attention in higher grades as they are applied to increasingly sophisticated writing and speaking are marked with an asterisk (*). See the table on page 56 for a complete listing and Appendix A for an example of how these skills develop in sophistication.

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Conventions of Standard English		
1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. - Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (subjective, objective, possessive). - Use intensive pronouns (e.g., <i>myself</i>, <i>ourselves</i>). - Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.* - Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents)* - Recognize variations from standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking, and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language.*	1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. - Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences. - Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas. - Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers.*	1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. - Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences. - Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice. - Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood. - Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.*
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. - Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements.* - Spell correctly.	2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. - Use a comma to separate coordinate adjectives (e.g., <i>It was a fascinating, enjoyable movie</i> but not <i>He wore an old[,] green shirt</i>). - Spell correctly.	2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. - Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break. - Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission. - Spell correctly.
Knowledge of Language		
3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. - Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.* - Maintain consistency in style and tone.*	3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. Choose language that expresses ideas precisely—	3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. be <i>—</i>

Language Standards 6–12

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Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use		

Language Standards 6–12

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The CCR anchor standards and high school grade-specific standards work in tandem to define college and career readiness expectations—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity.

Grades 9–10 students:	Grades 11–12 students:
Conventions of Standard English	
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. - Use parallel structure.* - Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative, adverbial) to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations. - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. - Use a semicolon (and perhaps a conjunctive adverb) to link two or more closely related independent clauses. - Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation. - Spell correctly.	- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. - Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contested. - Resolve issues of complex or contested usage, consulting references (e.g., <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage</i>, <i>Garner's Modern American Usage</i>) as needed. - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. - Observe hyphenation conventions. - Spell correctly.
Knowledge of Language	
- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening. - Write and edit work so that it conforms to the guidelines in a style manual (e.g., <i>MLA Handbook</i>, <i>Turabian's Manual for Writers</i>) appropriate for the discipline and writing type.	- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening. - Vary syntax for effect, consulting references (e.g., Tufte's <i>Artful Sentences</i>) for guidance as needed; apply an understanding of syntax to the study of complex texts when reading.

Language Standards 6–12

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Grades 9–10 students:

Grades 11–12 students:

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on <i>grades 9–10 reading and content</i>, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. a. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. b. Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., <i>analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy</i>). c. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, or its etymology. d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).	4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on <i>grades 11–12 reading and content</i>, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. a. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. b. Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., <i>conceive, conception, conceivable</i>). c. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, its etymology, or its standard usage. d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).
5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. a. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., euphemism, oxymoron) in context and analyze their role in the text. b. Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.	5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. a. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text. b. Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.
6. Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.	6. Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

Language Progressive Skills, by Grade

The following skills, marked with an asterisk (*) in Language standards 1–3, are particularly likely to require continued attention in high school.

Standard 10: Range, Quality, and Complexity of Student Reading 6–12

RI.10.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Texts Illustrating the Complexity, Quality, and Range of Student Reading 6–12

	Literature: Stories, Dramas, Poetry	Informational Texts: Literary Nonfiction
6–8	<i>Little Women</i> by Louisa May Alcott (1869) <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> by Mark Twain (1876) “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost (1915) <i>The Dark Is Rising</i> by Susan Cooper (1973) <i>Dragonwings</i> by Laurence Yep (1975) <i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> by Mildred Taylor (1976)	“Letter on Thomas Jefferson” by John Adams (1776) <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave</i> by Frederick Douglass (1845) “Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat: Address to Parliament on May 13th, 1940” by Winston Churchill (1940) <i>Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad</i> by Ann Petry (1955) <i>Travels with Charley: In Search of America</i> by John Steinbeck (1962)
9–10	<i>The Tragedy of Macbeth</i> by William Shakespeare (1592) “Ozymandias” by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1817) “The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe (1845) “The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry (1906) <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> by John Steinbeck (1939) <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury (1953) <i>The Killer Angels</i> by Michael Shaara (1975)	“Speech to the Second Virginia Convention” by Patrick Henry (1775) “Farewell Address” by George Washington (1796) “Gettysburg Address” by Abraham Lincoln (1863) “State of the Union Address” by Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1941) “Letter from Birmingham Jail” by Martin Luther King, Jr. (1964) “Hope, Despair and Memory” by Elie Wiesel (1997)
11–CCR	“Ode on a Grecian Urn” by John Keats (1819) “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” by T. S. Eliot (1915) “The Waste Land” by T. S. Eliot (1922) “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost (1915) “The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry (1906) “The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe (1845) “Ozymandias” by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1817) “The Tragedy of Macbeth” by William Shakespeare (1592) <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> by John Steinbeck (1939) <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury (1953) <i>The Killer Angels</i> by Michael Shaara (1975)	“Speech to the Second Virginia Convention” by Patrick Henry (1775) “Farewell Address” by George Washington (1796) “Gettysburg Address” by Abraham Lincoln (1863) “State of the Union Address” by Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1941) “Letter from Birmingham Jail” by Martin Luther King, Jr. (1964) “Hope, Despair and Memory” by Elie Wiesel (1997)

STANDARDS FOR

**Literacy in
History/Social Studies,
Science, and Technical Subjects**

6–12

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading

Reading Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies 6–12

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The standards below begin at grade 6; standards for K–5 reading in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects are integrated into the K–5 Reading standards. The CCR anchor standards and high school standards in literacy work in tandem to define college and career readiness expectations—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity.

Grades 6–8 students:		Grades 9–10 students:		Grades 11–12 students:	
Key Ideas and Details					
1.	Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.	1.	Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.	1.	Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.
2.	Determine the central idea or main topic and how it is related to key details; analyze how particular details function to support the whole.	2.	Analyze how different parts of a text relate to each other and to the whole.	2.	Analyze how different parts of a text relate to each other and to the whole.

Reading Standards for Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects 6–12

Grades 6–8 students:	Grades 9–10 students:	Grades 11–12 students:
Key Ideas and Details		
1. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts.	1. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to the precise details of explanations or descriptions.	1. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to important distinctions the author makes and to any gaps or inconsistencies in the account.
2. Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.	2. Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; trace the text's explanation or depiction of a complex process, phenomenon, or concept; provide an accurate summary of the text.	2. Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; summarize complex concepts, processes, or information presented in a text by paraphrasing them in simpler but still accurate terms.
3. Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks.	3. Follow precisely a complex multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks, attending to special cases or exceptions defined in the text.	3. Follow precisely a complex multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks; analyze the specific results based on explanations in the text.
Craft and Structure		
4. Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to <i>grades 6–8 texts and topics</i> .	4. Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to <i>grades 9–10 texts and topics</i> .	4. Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to <i>grades 11–12 texts and topics</i> .
5. Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to an understanding of the topic.	5. Analyze the structure of the relationships among concepts in a text, including relationships among key terms (e.g., <i>force</i> , <i>friction</i> , <i>reaction force</i> , <i>energy</i>).	5. Analyze how the text structures information or ideas into categories or hierarchies, demonstrating understanding of the information or ideas.
6. Analyze the author's purpose in providing an explanation, describing a procedure, or discussing an experiment in a text.	6. Analyze the author's purpose in providing an explanation, describing a procedure, or discussing an experiment in a text, defining the question the author seeks to address.	6. Analyze the author's purpose in providing an explanation, describing a procedure, or discussing an experiment in a text, identifying important issues that remain unresolved.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas		
7. Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).	7. Translate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text into visual form (e.g., a table or chart) and translate information expressed visually or mathematically (e.g., in an equation) into words.	7. Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., quantitative data, video, multimedia) in order to address a question or solve a problem.
8. Distinguish among facts, reasoned judgment based on scientific principles, the validity of a scientific use of data and graph, and other problem-based information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., quantitative data, video, multimedia) in order to address a question or solve a problem.	8. Distinguish among facts, reasoned judgment based on scientific principles, the validity of a scientific use of data and graph, and other problem-based information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., quantitative data, video, multimedia) in order to address a question or solve a problem.	8. Distinguish among facts, reasoned judgment based on scientific principles, the validity of a scientific use of data and graph, and other problem-based information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., quantitative data, video, multimedia) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects 6–12

The standards below begin at grade 6; standards for K–5 writing in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects are integrated into the K–5 Writing standards. The CCR anchor standards and high school standards in literacy work in tandem to define college and career readiness expectations—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity.

Grades 6–8 students:		Grades 9–10 students:		Grades 11–12 students:	
Text Types and Purposes					
1.	Write arguments focused on <i>discipline-specific content</i> . a. Introduce claim(s) about a topic or issue, acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically. b. Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant, accurate data and evidence that demonstrate an understanding of the topic or text, using credible sources. c. Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence. d. Establish and maintain a formal style. e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.	1.	Write arguments focused on <i>discipline-specific content</i> . a. Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among the claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence. b. Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly, supplying data and evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both claim(s) and counterclaims in a discipline-appropriate form and in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level and concerns. c. Use words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims. d. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing. e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from or supports the argument presented.	1.	Write arguments focused on <i>discipline-specific content</i> . a. Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences the claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence. b. Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant data and evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both claim(s) and counterclaims in a discipline-appropriate form that anticipates the audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases. c. Use words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims. d. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing. e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from or supports the argument presented.

