

Content Standards – Language/Reading

What should students know and do? When should they learn it?

Grade 7

LANGUAGE

- Deliver well-organized formal presentations.
- Demonstrate correct mechanics of writing and appropriate English usage.
- Identify parts of speech and types and structures of sentences.
- Write summaries and outlines of reading materials.
- Write narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive texts of 500-700 words.
- Write research reports with bibliographies.
- Write responses to literature.
- Support statements with specific examples.
- Create documents using publishing programs and word processing skills.
- Revise writing to improve organization and word choice.
- Use effective transitions to unify ideas.
- Write fictional or autobiographical narratives using appropriate strategies.

READING

- Read narratives and expository text with fluency, accuracy, and expression.
- Identify idioms, analogies, metaphors, and similes in prose and poetry.
- Recognize origins of root words, prefixes, and suffixes to understand vocabulary.
- Read a variety of genres at grade level, independently.
- Locate information by using a variety of sources.
- Identify and trace development of an author's perspective in text.
- Note instances of bias or stereotyping in text.
- Identify elements of plot and characterization.
- Analyze recurring themes across works.
- Contrast points of view such as first and third person, limited and omniscient, subjective and objective.

Grade 8

LANGUAGE

- Deliver well-organized formal presentations such as responses to literature, research information, and persuasive presentations.
- Prepare speech outlines.
- Edit written materials to ensure correct grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling conventions.
- Write narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive essays of 500-700 words each.
- Define and support a thesis.
- Prepare and display information using graphic organizers.
- Write simple business letters or letters of inquiry to meet the needs of the intended audience.
- Use formatting techniques (e.g., headings, different fonts) to aid comprehension.
- Plan and conduct multiple information searches using computer networks and modems.

Grade 8, continued

READING

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- Read and understand grade-level appropriate material.
 - Analyze idioms, analogies, metaphors, and similes to infer literal and figurative meanings of text.
 - Analyze text that uses proposition and support patterns.
 - Read approximately 12 books annually from a variety of genres.
 - Evaluate the unity, coherence, logic, and internal consistency of a variety of documents.
 - Determine and articulate the characteristics of different forms of poetry.
 - Analyze the relevance of setting to the mood, tone, and meaning of text.
 - Identify and analyze recurring themes.
 - Identify literary devices like metaphor, dialect, and irony that define a writer's style.
 - Use word meanings within the appropriate context.
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Grades 9 and 10

LANGUAGE

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- Write coherent and focused essays that convey well-defined perspectives and tightly reasoned arguments.
 - Use clear research questions and suitable research methods.
 - Synthesize information from multiple sources.
 - Use appropriate conventions for documentation of sources.
 - Integrate quotations and citations into a written text.
 - Revise writing to improve logic, coherence, and diction by taking into consideration the audience, purpose, and formality of context.
 - Make effective use of descriptions.
 - Write responses to literature.
 - Write expository analytical essays.
 - Follow a conventional style with page formats, fonts, and spacing that contributes to the documents' readability and impact.
 - Demonstrate an understanding of proper English usage and control of grammar, paragraph, and sentence structure, diction and syntax.
 - Present oral responses to literature and support ideas or viewpoints with text.
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READING

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- Apply knowledge of word origins to determine meanings of new words.
 - Read with fluency grade-level materials including classic and contemporary literature, newspapers, and online information.
 - Encourage the reading of two additional books a month outside of the required reading.
 - Prepare a bibliography of reference materials using a variety of documents.
 - Evaluate the credibility of an author's argument.
 - Compare and contrast a similar theme or topic across a variety of genres.
 - Recognize and understand literary devices including figurative language, imagery, allegory, foreshadowing, and symbolism.
 - Identify and describe the function of dialogue, soliloquies, and character foils in literature.
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Grades 11 and 12

LANGUAGE

- Deliver formal and extemporaneous presentations that convey clear and distinct perspectives and demonstrate solid reasoning.
- Enhance meaning using parallelism, repetition, analogy, and visual aids.
- Develop presentations by using clear research questions as well as creative and critical research strategies.
- Revise text to improve sentence variety and style.
- Combine rhetorical strategies of narration, exposition, persuasion, and description to produce compositions.
- Make effective use of descriptions of images and shifting perspectives.
- Analyze use of imagery, language, universal themes, and unique aspects of text.
- Demonstrate an understanding of stylistic devices.
- Include information from a variety of relevant perspectives and demonstrate their reliability.
- Deliver multimedia presentations by combining information from text and sources such as videos, Internet, CD-ROMs, and television broadcasts.
- Structure ideas and arguments in a sustained and persuasive way.

READING

- Analyze the features and rhetorical devices of a variety of oral/written genres.
- Make reasonable assertions about written arguments by using elements of the text.
- Critique power, validity, and truthfulness of arguments in public documents.
- Analyze the uses of irony, tone, mood, and author's style to achieve a specific purpose.
- Analyze recognized works of American and world literature representing a variety of genres and traditions.
- Analyze the philosophical and political assumptions in literary works or essays.

These state standards have been established by the California Board of Education and adopted by the Santa Barbara School Districts Board of Education. A complete set of standards is available at the District Office.

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