



Grade 8 English Language Arts

Major Learning Targets for This Grade

Reading

- Students will analyze where materials on the same topic disagree on matters of fact, interpretation, or point of view.
- Students will plan and conduct research projects that include several steps and use many credible and documented print and digital sources.
- Students will analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media (e.g., print, TV, web) and evaluate its social, political, or commercial motives.

Writing

- Students will cite the evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what is explicitly stated and/or implied from a book, article, poem, or play.
- Students will build writing around strong central ideas or points of view; supporting the ideas with sound reasoning and evidence, precise word choices, smooth transitions, and different sentence structures.
- Students will plan and conduct research projects that include several steps and use many credible and documented print and digital sources.

Language

- Students will use strong active verbs to create a clear picture for the reader (e.g., walk, skip, meander, lurch, limp).
- Students will interpret figures of speech (e.g., irony, puns) and develop a large vocabulary of general academic words and phrases.

Speaking and Listening

- Students will present findings and claims to others, emphasizing key points with relevant evidence and sound reasoning, adapting speech to the audience and the formality of the setting, and respond to questions and comments with relevant observations and ideas.



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College, Career, and Life Readiness

Students will be working to develop the following capabilities of a literate individual:

- Demonstrate independence.
- Build strong content knowledge.
- Respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline.
- Comprehend as well as critique.
- Value evidence.
- Use technology and digital media strategically and capably.
- Come to understand other perspectives and cultures.

How Can I Support My Child?

1. Encourage your Child to Read a Variety of Texts

- Make sure your child has many different kinds of books at home, including fiction and informational texts.
- Help your child safely navigate online resources and conduct research for various school subjects.
- Ask your child who their favorite author is. Why do they like the author's books? What ideas does the author write about?

2. Talk about What's Going on in the World

- Practice critical thinking skills with your child through discussions about current events.
- Encourage your child to compare and contrast different points of view and form their own opinion.

3. Encourage Lifelong Learning

- Help your child to gather information and instructions needed to manage everyday life.
- Seek enjoyment, enrichment and inspiration from visiting local art museums or other community places of interest with your child.

For more information, visit scusd.edu/ela or contact Denise-Leograndis@scusd.edu, ELA Coordinator

SCUSD's Vision for Instruction and Assessment: *As a community of learners, we strive to create positive and engaging environments where a rigorous, student-centered curriculum is central. Teachers use inquiry-based instruction and formative assessment practices to support ALL learners in maturing socially and in becoming disciplinary thinkers.*