



# Grades 9-12 English Language Arts

## Major Learning Targets for This Grade

### Reading

- Students will make more connections about how complex ideas interact and develop within a book, essay, or article.
- Students will evaluate arguments and specific claims, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is sufficient, and as appropriate, detect inconsistencies and ambiguities.
- Students will analyze the meaning of foundational U.S. documents (Declaration of Independence, Preamble to the Constitution, Bill of Right).

### Writing

- Students will make an argument that is logical, well-reasoned, and supported by evidence.
- Students will write a literary analysis, report, or summary that develops a central idea and a coherent focus and is well supported with relevant examples, facts, and details.
- Students will conduct research projects that address different aspects of the same topic, using more complex books, articles, and other sources.

### Language

- Students will determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases, choosing flexibly from multiple strategies, such as using context, Greek and Latin roots, patterns of words, and consulting specialized reference materials.
- Students will interpret figures of speech in context and analyze their role in written materials.

### Speaking and Listening

- Students will respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesizing comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; and resolving contradictions when possible.
- Students will share research, findings and evidence clearly and concisely.
- Students will make strategic use of digital media to enhance understanding of findings and to add interest.



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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.

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For more information, visit [scusd.edu/ela](http://scusd.edu/ela) or contact [Denise-Leograndis@scusd.edu](mailto: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.*