

## ELA 7 Course Overview

Unit	Major Concepts	Skills	Summative Assessments
	<b>Theme: The World We Share</b>		
Introduction to ELA 7	<p>Clear communication can change the world.</p> <p>Clarity of thought is essential to clarity of expression.</p> <p>Language evolves; both prescriptivist and descriptivist approaches to grammar have a place in our reading and writing.</p> <p>Reading and writing are sources of pleasure, recreation, self-expression, inspiration, as well as academic achievement.</p> <p>Writing is a process that includes planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.</p> <p>Good grammar and mechanics help writers communicate their ideas clearly.</p>	<p>Read for at least 30 minutes a day.</p> <p>Read independently in addition to class assigned reading.</p> <p>Maintain and analyze records of reading frequency and rate.</p> <p>Respond to text through discussion and written retell.</p> <p>Discover more specific and more powerful vocabulary.</p>	<p>Baseline test of reading comprehension (Gates McGinitie)</p> <p>Conclusions drawn from reading conferences and summer reading logs</p> <p>Sentence and paragraph review</p>
Grammar and Mechanics (Ongoing through the year)	<p>Clarity is essential; the audience can't read the writer's mind.</p>	<p>Ensure the antecedent of a pronoun is clear.</p> <p>Use appropriate verb tense (particularly when shifts are necessary, as in literary discussion or fiction narration).</p> <p>Use commas correctly.</p> <p>Identify and correct incomplete, fragmented or run-on sentences.</p> <p>Use complex, compound, and compound-complex sentences confidently.</p> <p>Build well-structured paragraphs from more sophisticated sentences.</p> <p>Build well-structured essays from solid paragraphs</p>	<p>Applications in writing tasks through the year</p> <p>Assessments following skill units (addressing both new and reviewed skills)</p>

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	<b>Theme: The World We Think About</b>		
Introduction to Supported Opinion Writing	<p>Writing is always geared to a specific purpose and audience.</p> <p>The most effective opinion writing is supported by relevant facts.</p>	<p>Develop an opinion based on reading.</p> <p>Write a persuasive argument supported by evidence.</p> <p>Organize an argument in conventional essay form.</p> <p>Cite sources correctly.</p>	<p>Scaffolding assignments for essay</p> <p>Rubric for final draft of essay</p>
	<b>Theme: The World We Experience</b>		
Reading Short Fiction "Based on a True Story"	<p>A deep study of character can reveal theme in a work of fiction.</p> <p>Authors can begin with personal experiences to create a fictional narrative.</p> <p>Authors' use of specific vocabulary and language patterns can enhance the distinction among characters.</p> <p>Authors' use of structure can enhance the reader's experience.</p>	<p>Identify words significant to plot, character and theme development.</p> <p>Use specific textual references to support inferences and theories about meaning.</p> <p>Support conclusions about themes with specific text evidence.</p> <p>Identify use of structure (dialogue, sentence length and complexity, paragraph length) to impact meaning, pacing.</p> <p>Determine the differences among personal narrative essay, and narrative fiction "based on a true story."</p>	<p>Vocabulary work on character and theme development.</p> <p>Short fiction sight reading</p> <p>Conclusions drawn from &amp; rubrics for conferences and class discussions</p> <p>Close reading interpretive questions.</p>
Writing Realistic Short Narrative	<p>Our own experiences can provide a starting place for creative narrative (fiction or personal essay)</p>	<p>Use characteristics explored in short fiction reading unit in one's own writing (description, dialogue, pacing...).</p>	<p>Conclusions drawn from conferences through writing process (selection of central event and characters, story outline, rough drafts)</p> <p>Rubric for final draft of story</p>

<p>Novel Study: <i>The Outsiders</i></p>	<p>While all novels follow a predictable structure and contain common literary elements, many novels emphasize certain elements more than others</p> <p>Character emerges through description (from the narrator, the character, and other characters), dialogue, and actions</p> <p>Theme emerges from character, setting, symbols, and conflict</p> <p>Literary terms and specific vocabulary help readers accurately describe and discuss character, theme, structure, and other elements</p>	<p>Read closely for character, and theme.</p> <p>Read closely for the author's use (and purpose) of language and organization.</p> <p>Infer character traits and apply specific trait vocabulary in discussion and writing.</p> <p>Develop new understandings about text based on patterns identified through close reading.</p> <p>Use specific textual references to support inferences and theories about meaning.</p> <p>Identify significant objects (symbols).</p>	<p>Quizzes on literary terms</p> <p>Short reading quizzes</p> <p>Reading reflections</p> <p>Close reading interpretive questions</p> <p>Memorial for a character (written or graphic)</p> <p>Film scenes comparison to novel</p>
<p>Novel Study: Literary Analysis Essay</p>	<p>With solid evidence and clear writing, a formal essay can still allow for an individual approach</p> <p>The purpose and audience of a piece of writing determines the voice.</p>	<p>Use a prompt to develop a thesis.</p> <p>Find textual evidence to support a thesis.</p> <p>Smoothly incorporate textual evidence into the body of an essay.</p> <p>Write with an authoritative voice.</p>	<p>Conclusions drawn from conferences during writing process</p> <p>Rubric on final draft of literary analysis paper on <i>The Outsiders</i> or a realistic fiction novel of the student's choice (with teacher approval)</p>

	<b>Theme: The World We Discover</b>		
Reading Nonfiction	Informational text, whether prose, video, or infographic, must be read with a critical eye to bias.	<p>Use specific evidence from text to infer author bias.</p> <p>Use specific evidence from text to support own opinion.</p> <p>Differentiate between fact and opinion.</p> <p>Evaluate sources.</p>	<p>Conclusions drawn from class discussions</p> <p>Rubric for Class presentations</p> <p>Socratic seminar</p> <p>Reading quizzes</p> <p>Close reading interpretive questions</p>
Reading as Research (For Research Paper)	<p>Research is required to develop a strong, intelligent argument on a topic.</p> <p>Research of the opposing argument strengthens one's own.</p>	<p>Keep clear digital notes on research to differentiate sources and facilitate use of information without plagiarizing.</p> <p>Evaluate quality of sources.</p> <p>Evaluate relevance of sources to a question.</p>	<p>Digital notes (NoodleTools)</p> <p>Conclusions drawn from research conferences</p>
Writing a Research Essay (food related topics developed by students)	<p>Well documented, well researched writing is becoming increasingly important in our society.</p> <p>Even formal academic research papers can be written to inspire.</p> <p>Plagiarism is a serious crime.</p>	<p>Develop a thesis based on research.</p> <p>Incorporate evidence in writing.</p> <p>Use digital notes from research to compose a formal essay.</p> <p>Strategize order of evidence.</p> <p>Cite sources specifically using a standard format.</p> <p>Maintain a formal voice throughout the paper.</p>	<p>Conclusions drawn from writing conferences</p> <p>Rubric on final draft of paper</p>

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	<b>Theme: The World We Imagine</b>		
Reading Poetry	<p>Poetry has many forms and is distinct from prose.</p> <p>Specific literary techniques can be learned and applied in the writing of poetry.</p> <p>Distinct literary terms support clear discussion of poetry.</p>	<p>Recognize details of poems that make them more accessible and / or give them stronger impact.</p> <p>Differentiate among a selection of verse forms, rhyme, and metrical schemes.</p> <p>Apply specific poetic techniques and forms.</p>	<p>Small group discussion reports</p> <p>Reader's notebook</p> <p>Literary term mini quizzes</p>
Writing Poetry and Writing About Poetry	<p>Creative process is a powerful subject for reflection.</p> <p>Learning about ourselves as creative writers strengthens our critical thinking.</p> <p>Close awareness and observation are powerful ingredients for poetry.</p>	<p>Select a group of poems to polish.</p> <p>Evaluate the relative merits of poems.</p> <p>Incorporate evidence and quotations.</p>	<p>Correct application of techniques, terms, and forms</p> <p>Reflection writing final draft rubric</p> <p>Polished poems rubric</p>