

ELA 7 Course Overview

Unit	Major Concepts	Skills	Summative Assessments
Introduction to ELA 7: Reading and Writing	<p>Clear communication can change the world.</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>Reading great writers can enhance our own writing; we can learn from the writing patterns of authors we enjoy reading.</p>	<p>Read independently in addition to class assigned reading</p> <p>Maintain and analyze reading records on - frequency - rate</p> <p>Respond to text through discussion and written retell</p> <p>Discover literal and inferred meaning (connotation and denotation) and the impact of voice</p> <p>Comparing works with different structures but similar themes</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>3 paragraphs -- "Why I Like (or Don't Like) to Read"</p> <p><i>Wordly Wise</i></p>
Grammar and Mechanics (Ongoing through the year)	Clarity is key	<p>Ensure the antecedent of a pronoun is clear</p> <p>Use appropriate verb tense (particularly when shifts are necessary as in literary discussion)</p> <p>Use commas correctly</p> <p>Identify and correct incomplete, fragmented or run-on sentences</p> <p>Use both complex and compound 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>WPP Online</p> <p>Assessments following skill units (addressing both new and reviewed skills)</p>

ELA 7 Course Overview

	Theme: The World We Experience		
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>Identify specific theme</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 & rubrics for conferences and class discussions</p> <p>Reader's Notebook</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</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>
Novel Study: <i>The Outsiders</i>	<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, theme</p> <p>Read closely for 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>Quizzes on literary terms</p> <p>Short reading quizzes</p> <p>Reading reflections</p> <p>Memorial for a character (written or graphic)</p> <p>Film scenes comparison to novel</p>

ELA 7 Course Overview

	<p>An essay writing prompt still allows for an individual approach as long as evidence is solid</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>Use WPP Online to refine</p>	<p>Conclusions drawn from conferences during writing process</p> <p>Rubric on final draft of literary analysis paper on <i>The Outsiders</i></p>
	Theme: The World We Discover		
Reading Nonfiction	<p>Informational text, whether prose, video or infographic, must be read with a critical eye to bias</p>	<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>Small group debate</p> <p>Socratic seminar</p> <p>Reading quizzes</p> <p>Reader's notebook</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 (assigned question)</p>	<p>Digital notes</p> <p>Reader's notebook</p> <p>Conclusions drawn from research conferences</p>
Writing a Research Essay (topic chosen from a selection of food related topics)	<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>Conclusions drawn from writing conferences</p> <p>Final draft of paper</p>

ELA 7 Course Overview

		<p>Cite sources specifically using a standard format</p> <p>Maintain a formal voice throughout the paper</p> <p>Use WPP Online to refine</p>	
	Theme: The World We Fear		
<p>Dystopias: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i></p>	<p>Dystopian literature points to problems in our existing society</p>	<p>Recognize aspects of fictional societies that parallel our own</p> <p>Discuss how specific details of setting and imagery inform the theme of the dystopia</p>	<p>Conclusions drawn from class discussions</p> <p>Periodic Reading Quizzes</p> <p>Reading Reflections</p> <p>Reader's notebook</p>
<p>Literary Analysis Essay II</p>	<p>The characters, setting and theme of <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> (and other dystopias) have much to teach us about American culture today.</p>	<p>Develop a thesis from a given prompt</p> <p>Revise with help of WPP Online</p>	<p>Final draft of paper</p>
	Theme: The World of Beauty		
<p>Poetry</p>	<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>
<p>Writing about poetry</p>	<p>Creative process is a powerful subject for reflection.</p> <p>Learning about ourselves as creative writers strengthens our critical thinking.</p>	<p>Select a group of poems to polish</p> <p>Evaluate the relative merits of the poems</p> <p>Incorporate evidence and quotations</p>	<p>Correct application of techniques and forms</p> <p>Reflection writing final draft</p>