

Grade 8 Language Arts curriculum

Conventions

Edit written manuscripts to ensure that correct grammar is used.
Use correct punctuation and capitalization.

Pre-write and Draft

Create compositions that establish a controlling impression, have a coherent thesis, and end with a clear and well-supported conclusion.
Establish coherence within and among paragraphs through effective transitions, parallel structures, and similar writing techniques.
Support theses or conclusions with analogies, paraphrases, quotations, opinions from authorities, comparisons, and similar devices.

Revising and Editing

Revise writing for word choice; appropriate organization; consistent point of view; and transitions between paragraphs, passages, and ideas.

Research and Technology

Plan and conduct multiple-step information searches by using computer networks.
Achieve an effective balance between researched information and original ideas.
Give credit for both quoted and paraphrased information in a works cited, using MLA format.

Writing Applications

Write biographies, autobiographies, short stories, or narratives.
Write responses to literature.
Write research reports and persuasive compositions.
Write documents related to career development, including resumes and simple business letters.
Write technical documents.
Write five paragraph essays.

Sentence Structure

Use correct and varied sentence types and sentence openings to present a lively and effective personal style.
Identify and use parallelism, including similar grammatical forms.
Use subordination, coordination, and apposition to indicate clearly the relationship between ideas.

Spelling

Use correct spelling conventions.

Listening and Speaking

Listening and Speaking Strategies

Analyze oral interpretations of literature, including language choice and delivery, and the effect of the interpretations on the listener.

Paraphrase a speaker's purpose and point of view and ask relevant questions concerning the speaker's content, delivery, and purpose.

Organize information to achieve particular purposes by matching the message, vocabulary, voice modulation, expression, and tone to the audience and purpose.

Prepare a speech outline based upon a chosen pattern of organization, which generally includes an introduction; transitions, previews, and summaries; a logically developed body; and an effective conclusion.

Use appropriate grammar, word choice, enunciation, and pace during formal presentations.

Use audience feedback, verbal and nonverbal.

Evaluate the credibility of a speaker.

Interpret and evaluate the various ways in which visual image makers communicate information and affect impressions and opinions.

Speaking Applications

Deliver narrative presentations, oral responses to literature, research presentations, and persuasive presentations.

Recite poems, sections of speeches, or dramatic soliloquies, using voice modulation, tone, and gestures expressively to enhance the meaning.