



6-12

STANDARDS FOR

English Language Arts

Resources to support the Standards

Examples listed within the standards can sometimes limit instructional focus or provide too broad a focus; therefore, strategic use of examples exist in this Standards document. The disaggregated (unpacked) standards will be an additional resource that will provide educators with specifications and examples for each K-12 standard/strand.

To support the K-12 Standards work and support educators and districts across the state, the Department of Education will provide supplemental materials on reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. Appendices disaggregated (unpacked) standards for all grades K-12, and other literacy resources will be hosted on the DOE webpage. The disaggregated standards will provide specific examples for grade level skills in each of the strands (reading, writing, language, and speaking & listening).

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading

The grades 6–12 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

Key Ideas and Details

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Craft and Structure

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevancy and sufficiency of the evidence.
9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

Standard 10: Range and Complexity for Student Reading 6-12

Range of Text Types for 6

Students in 6-12 apply the Reading standards to the following range of text types, with texts selected from a broad range of cultures and periods.

Literature			Informational Text
Stories	Drama	Poetry	Literary Nonfiction
Includes the subgenres of adventure stories, historical fiction, mysteries, myths, science fiction, realistic fiction, allegories, parodies, satire, and graphic novels	Includes one-act and multi-act plays, both in written form and on film	Includes the subgenres of narrative poems, lyrical poems, free verse poems, sonnets, odes, ballads, and epics	Includes the subgenres of exposition, argument, and functional text in the form of personal essays, speeches, opinion pieces, essays about art or literature, biographies, memoirs, journalism, and historical, scientific, technical, or economic accounts (including digital sources) written for a broad audience

Reading Standards for Literature 6-12

The following standards offer a focus for instruction to ensure that students gain adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Standards support students becoming independent readers in a range of disciplines. The ability to interpret literature as well as informative, highly technical, and often lengthy reading passages on one's own is essential in achieving academic and career success. Students are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Key Ideas and Details		
6.RL.1 Cite relevant textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as logical inferences drawn from the text.	7.RL.1 Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	8.RL.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
6.RL.2 Determine a theme or central idea(s) of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.	7.RL.2 Determine a theme or central idea(s) of a text. a. Analyze its development over the course of the text. b. Provide an objective summary of the text.	8.RL.2 Determine a theme or central idea(s) of a text and a. Analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot. b. Provide an objective summary of the text.
6.RL.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.	7.RL.3 Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).	8.RL.3 Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
Craft and Structure		
6.RL.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.	7.RL.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including how figurative and connotative meanings affect tone; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.	8.RL.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, figurative and connotative meanings; analyze how specific word choices, including sound devices, analogies or allusions to other texts, affect meaning and tone.
6.RL.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.	7.RL.5 Analyze how the overall form or structure of a text (e.g., drama, poetry, narrative, short story) contributes to its meaning.	8.RL.5 Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.
6.RL.6 Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.	7.RL.6 Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.	8.RL.6 Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas		
6.RL.7 Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they "see" and "hear" when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.	7.RL.7 Compare and contrast a written story, drama, or poem to its audio, filmed, staged, or multimedia version, analyzing the effects of techniques unique to each medium (e.g., lighting, sound, color, or camera focus and angles in a film).	8.RL.7 Analyze how a filmed or live production of a story, drama, or poem stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors.
6.RL.8 (Not applicable to literature)	7.RL.8 (Not applicable to literature)	8.RL.8 (Not applicable to literature)
6.RL.9 Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories, etc.) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.	7.RL.9 Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period to understand how authors of fiction use or alter history.	8.RL.9 Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works, including describing how the material is rendered new.

Reading Standards for Literature 6-12

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity		
<p>6.RL.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently, with guidance and support as needed at the high end of the range.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Read and comprehend with proficiency at grade level. b. Self-select texts for personal enjoyment, interest, and academic tasks. c. Read widely to understand multiple perspectives and diverse viewpoints. 	<p>7.RL.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently, with guidance and support as needed at the high end of the range.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Read and comprehend with proficiency at grade level. b. Self-select texts for personal enjoyment, interest, and academic tasks. c. Read widely to understand multiple perspectives and diverse viewpoints. 	<p>8.RL.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at the high end of grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Read and comprehend with proficiency at grade level. b. Self-select texts for personal enjoyment, interest and academic tasks. c. Read widely to understand multiple perspectives and diverse viewpoints.

Reading Standards for Literature 6-12

The CCR anchor standards and high school grade-specific standards work in tandem to define college and career readiness expectations—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity.

Grade 9-10 students:	Grade 11-12 students:
Key Ideas and Details	
9-10.RL.1 Cite strong, relevant and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	11-12.RL.1 Accurately cite strong, relevant, and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
9-10.RL.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it is introduced, built, and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text to support thematic analysis.	11-12.RL.2 Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text to support thematic analysis.
9-10.RL.3 Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.	11-12.RL.3 Analyze the impact of the author’s choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).
Craft and Structure	
9-10.RL.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).	11-12.RL.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings or language.
9-10.RL.5 Analyze how an author’s choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it, and manipulate time create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.	11-12.RL.5 Analyze how an author’s choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.
9-10.RL.6 Analyze how point of view and/or author purpose shapes the content and style of culturally diverse texts, including those from outside the United States.	11-12.RL.6 Analyze how point of view and/or author purpose requires distinguishing what is directly stated in text and what is implied.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	
9-10.RL.7 Analyze the representation of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums, including what is emphasized or absent in each treatment.	11-12.RL.7 Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem in different artistic mediums, evaluating how each version interprets the source text.
9-10.RL.8 (Not applicable to literature)	11-12.RL.8 (Not applicable to literature)
9-10.RL.9 Analyze a variety of related literary texts and evaluate how an author draws on, alludes to, or transforms source material to provide a deeper and more thorough interpretation of the text.	11-12.RL.9 Demonstrate knowledge of seventeenth-, eighteenth-, nineteenth- and early twentieth-century foundational works of American or world literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics.

Reading Standards for Literature 6-12

Grade 9-10 students:	Grade 11-12 students:
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	
<p>9-10.RL.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at the high end of grades 9–10 text complexity band independently and proficiently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Read and comprehend with proficiency at grade level. b. Self-select texts for personal enjoyment, interest and academic tasks. c. Read widely to understand multiple perspectives and diverse viewpoints 	<p>11-12.RL.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at the high end of grades 11-12 text complexity band independently and proficiently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Read and comprehend grade level texts for academic tasks. b. Self-select texts for personal enjoyment, interest, and academic tasks. c. Read widely to understand multiple perspectives and diverse viewpoints.

Reading Standards for Informational Text 6-12

The following standards offer a focus for instruction each year and help ensure that students gain adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Standards support students becoming independent readers in a range of disciplines. The ability to interpret informational texts that provide informative, highly technical, and often lengthy reading passages on one's own is essential in achieving academic and career success. Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Key Ideas and Details		
6.RI.1 Cite relevant textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as logical inferences drawn from the text.	7.RI.1 Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	8.RI.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
6.RI.2 Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details. Provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.	7.RI.2 Determine two or more central ideas in a text. a. Analyze their development over the course of the text. b. Provide an objective summary of the text.	8.RI.2 Determine a central idea of a text a. Analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas. b. Provide an objective summary of the text.
6.RI.3 Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text.	7.RI.3 Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).	8.RI.3 Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).
Craft and Structure		
6.RI.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.	7.RI.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze how specific word choice affects meaning and tone.	8.RI.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze how specific word choices, including analogies or allusions to other texts on affect meaning and tone.
6.RI.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas.	7.RI.5 Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.	8.RI.5 Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.
6.RI.6 Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.	7.RI.6 Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her viewpoint from that of others.	8.RI.6 Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas		
6.RI.7 Integrate information presented in different media or visual formats as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.	7.RI.7 Compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject (e.g., how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words).	8.RI.7 Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.
6.RI.8 Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.	7.RI.8 Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text. a. Assess whether the reasoning is sound. b. Assess whether the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.	8.RI.8 Delineate (break down) and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text; a. Assess whether the reasoning is sound. b. Assess whether the evidence is relevant and sufficient. c. Recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.
6.RI.9 Compare and contrast two authors' presentations of events on the same topic.	7.RI.9 Analyze how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts.	8.RI.9 Analyze a case in which two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or identify where the texts disagree on matters of interpretation.

Reading Standards for Informational Text 6-12

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity		
<p>6.RI.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational text in the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently, with guidance and support as needed at the high end of the range.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Read and comprehend with proficiency at grade level. b. Self-select texts for personal enjoyment, interest, and academic tasks. c. Read widely to understand multiple perspectives and diverse viewpoints. 	<p>7.RI.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction and informational text in the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently, with guidance and support as needed at the high end of the range.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Read and comprehend with proficiency at grade level. b. Self-select texts for personal enjoyment, interest, and academic tasks. c. Read widely to understand multiple perspectives and diverse viewpoints. 	<p>8.RI.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction and informational text at the high end of grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Read and comprehend with proficiency at grade level. b. Self-select texts for personal enjoyment, interest and academic tasks. c. Read widely to understand multiple perspectives and diverse viewpoints.

Reading Standards for Informational Text 6–12

The CCR anchor standards and high school grade-specific standards work in tandem to define college and career readiness expectations—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity.

Grade 9-10 students:	Grade 11-12 students:
Key Ideas and Details	
9-10.RI.1 Cite strong, relevant and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	11-12.RI.1 Accurately cite strong, relevant, and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
9-10.RI.2 Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it is introduced, built, and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text to support analysis.	11-12.RI.2 Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex analysis; provide an objective summary of the text to support analysis.
9-10.RI.3 Analyze how the author structures an analysis or series of ideas or events, including sequence, introduction, development, and explicit and implicit connections.	11-12.RI.3 Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop over the course of the text.
Craft and Structure	
9-10.RI.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including a. Figurative, connotative, and technical meanings. b. Analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone. (e.g., how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).	11-12.RI.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term or terms over the course of a text.
9-10.RI.5 Analyze in detail how an author’s ideas or claims are developed and refined by particular sentences, paragraphs, or larger portions of a text (e.g., a section or chapter).	11-12.RI.5 Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in his or her exposition or argument, including whether the structure makes points clear, convincing, and engaging.
9-10.RI.6 Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose.	11-12.RI.6 Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective, analyzing how style and content contribute to its overall rhetorical effectiveness.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	
9-10.RI.7 Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums (e.g., a person’s life story in both print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.	11-12.RI.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, verbally, quantitatively) in order to address a question or solve a problem.
9-10.RI.8 Delineate (break down) and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning.	11-12.RI.8 Delineate (break down) and evaluate the reasoning in seminal U.S. and global texts, including the application of founding principles and use of legal reasoning and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy.
9-10.RI.9 Analyze seminal U.S. documents of historical and literary significance, including how they address related themes and concepts.	11-12.RI.9 Analyze seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century foundational U.S. documents of historical and literary significance for their themes, purposes, and rhetorical features.
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	
9-10.RI.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction and informational text at the high end of grades 9–10 text complexity band independently and proficiently. a. Read and comprehend with proficiency at grade level. b. Self-select texts for personal enjoyment, interest and academic tasks. c. Read widely to understand multiple perspectives and diverse viewpoints	11-12.RI.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction and informational texts at the high end of grades 11-12 text complexity band independently and proficiently. a. Read and comprehend grade level texts for academic tasks. b. Self-select texts for personal enjoyment, interest, and academic tasks. c. Read widely to understand multiple perspectives and diverse viewpoints.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

The 6-12 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

Writing is a key means of asserting and defending claims, showing what students know about a subject, and conveying what they have experienced, imagined, thought, and felt. Students must take task, purpose, and audience into careful consideration, choosing words, information, structures, and formats deliberately. They must have the flexibility, concentration, and fluency to produce high-quality first draft text under a tight deadline as well as the capacity to revisit and make improvements to a piece.

Text Types and Purposes

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

Production and Distribution of Writing

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Range of Writing

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Writing Standards 6-12

The following standards for grades 6–12 offer a focus for instruction each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. Each year in their writing, students should demonstrate increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use, from vocabulary and syntax to the development and organization of ideas, and they should address increasingly demanding content and sources. Students need skills to become independent writers for a variety of audiences and range of purposes. Independent writers are able to access multiple strategies and formats to communicate and craft a message so that it resonates with any reader they intend to reach.

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Text Types and Purposes		
<p>6.W.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly. b. Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text. c. Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons. d. Establish and maintain a formal style. e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented. 	<p>7.W.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce claim(s), acknowledge alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically. b. Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text. c. Use transitional words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence. d. Establish and maintain a formal style. e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented. 	<p>8.W.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically. b. Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text. c. Use transitional words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence. d. Establish and maintain a formal style. e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
<p>6.W.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings, etc.), graphics (e.g., charts, tables, etc.), and multimedia when useful to aid comprehension. b. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples. c. Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic. e. Establish and maintain a formal style. f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented. 	<p>7.W.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings, etc.), graphics (e.g., charts, tables, etc.), and multimedia when useful to aid comprehension. b. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples. c. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic. e. Establish and maintain a formal style. f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented. 	<p>8.W.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension. b. Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples. c. Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic. e. Establish and maintain a formal style. f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.

Writing Standards 6-12

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Text Types and Purposes (continued)		
<p>6.W.3 Write narratives and other creative texts to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.</p> <p>a. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.</p> <p>b. Use literary and narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, rhythm, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.</p> <p>c. Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.</p> <p>d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, figurative and sensory language to convey experiences and events.</p> <p>e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and/or reflects the narrated experiences or event (when appropriate to the genre).</p>	<p>7.W.3 Write narratives and other creative texts to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.</p> <p>a. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.</p> <p>b. Use narrative and literary techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, rhythm, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.</p> <p>c. Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.</p> <p>d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and figurative and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.</p> <p>e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and/or reflects on the narrated experiences or events (when appropriate to genre).</p>	<p>8.W.3 Write narratives and other creative texts to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.</p> <p>a. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.</p> <p>b. Use narrative and literary techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, rhythm, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.</p> <p>c. Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another, and show the relationships among experiences and events.</p> <p>d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory and figurative language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.</p> <p>e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events (when appropriate to genre).</p>
Production and Distribution of Writing		
<p>6.W.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)</p>	<p>7.W.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)</p>	<p>8.W.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)</p>
<p>6.W.5 Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, drafting, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach. Use guidance and support from peers and adults as needed. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grade 6.)</p>	<p>7.W.5 Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, drafting, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed. Use guidance and support from peers and adults as needed. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grade 7.)</p>	<p>8.W.5 With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, drafting, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grade 8.)</p>
<p>6.W.6 Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others. Demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type produce writing with a minimum of two-three pages in a single sitting.</p>	<p>7.W.6 Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and link to and cite sources as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to produce writing with stamina in a single sitting.</p>	<p>8.W.6 Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently as well as to interact and collaborate with others.</p>

Writing Standards 6-12

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Research to Build and Present Knowledge		
6.W.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.	7.W.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.	8.W.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
6.W.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources. a. Assess the credibility of each source. b. Quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources.	7.W.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources. a. Use search terms effectively. b. Assess the credibility and accuracy of each source. c. Quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism. d. Follow a standard format for citation.	8.W.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources. a. Use search terms effectively b. Assess the credibility and accuracy of each source. c. Quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
6.W.9 Draw relevant evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, reflection, and research. a. Apply grade 6 Reading standards for literature to writing. b. Apply grade 6 Reading standards for informational texts to writing.	7.W.9 Draw relevant evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, reflection, and research. a. Apply grade 7 Reading standards for literature to writing. b. Apply grade 7 Reading standards for informational texts to writing.	8.W.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. a. Apply grade 8 Reading standards for literature to writing. b. Apply grade 8 Reading standards for informational texts to writing.
Range of Writing		
6.W.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences; independently select writing topics and formats for personal enjoyment, interest, and academic tasks.	7.W.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences; independently select writing topics and formats for personal enjoyment, interest, and academic tasks.	8.W.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences; independently select writing topics and formats for personal enjoyment, interest, and academic tasks.

Writing Standards 6-12

The CCR anchor standards and high school grade-specific standards work in tandem to define college and career readiness expectations—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity.

Grade 9-10 students:	Grade 11-12 students:
Text Types and Purposes	
<p>9-10.W.1 Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence. b. Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly, supplying evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience’s knowledge level and concerns. c. Use transitional words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims. d. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing. e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented. 	<p>11-12.W.1 Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence. b. Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience’s knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases. c. Use transitional words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.
<p>9-10.W.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension. b. Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic. c. Use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts. d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic. e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic). 	<p>11-12.W.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension. b. Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic. c. Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts. d. Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic. e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).

Writing Standards 6-12

Grade 9-10 students:	Grade 11-12 students:
Text Types and Purposes (continued)	
<p>9-10.W.3 Write narratives or other creative texts to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.</p> <p>a. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.</p> <p>b. Use narrative or literary techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, rhythm, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.</p> <p>c. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.</p> <p>d. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory and figurative language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.</p> <p>e. Provide a conclusion (when appropriate to the genre) that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative or creative text.</p>	<p>11-12.W.3 Write narratives or other creative texts to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.</p> <p>a. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.</p> <p>b. Use literary or narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.</p> <p>c. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).</p> <p>d. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, figurative and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.</p> <p>e. Provide a conclusion (when appropriate to the genre) that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative or creative text.</p>
Production and Distribution of Writing	
9-10.W.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, style, and tone are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.	11-12.W.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, style and tone are appropriate to grade-specific task, purpose, and audience.
9-10.W.5 Use a writing process to develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience. Use guidance and support from peers and adults as needed. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grades 9–10.)	11-12.W.5 Use a writing process to develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grades 11–12.)
9-10.W.6 Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology’s capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.	11-12.W.6 Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.
Research to Build and Present Knowledge	
9-10.W.7 Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.	11-12.W.7 Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
9-10.W.8 Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.	11-12.W.8 Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.
9-10.W.9 Draw relevant evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.	11-12.W.9 Draw relevant evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
<p>a. Apply grades 9–10 Reading standards for literature to writing.</p> <p>b. Apply grades 9–10 Reading standards for literary fiction and nonfiction to writing.</p>	<p>a. Apply grades 11–12 Reading standards for literature to writing.</p> <p>b. Apply grades 11–12 Reading standards for literary fiction and nonfiction to writing.</p>

Grade 9-10 students:	Grade 11-12 students:
Range of Writing	
9-10.W.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences; independently select writing topics and formats for personal enjoyment, interest, and academic tasks.	11-12.W.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences; independently select writing topics and formats for personal enjoyment, interest, and academic tasks.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening

The grades 6–12 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

To become college and career ready, students must have ample opportunities to take part in a variety of rich, structured conversations—as part of a whole class, in small groups, and with a partner—built around important content in various domains. They must be able to contribute appropriately to these conversations, to make comparisons and contrasts, and to analyze and synthesize a multitude of ideas in accordance with the standards of evidence appropriate to a particular discipline. Whatever their intended major or profession, high school graduates will depend heavily on their ability to listen attentively to others so that they are able to build on others’ meritorious ideas while expressing their own clearly and persuasively. New technologies have broadened and expanded the role that speaking and listening play in acquiring and sharing knowledge and have tightened their link to other forms of communication. The Internet has accelerated the speed at which connections between speaking, listening, reading, and writing can be made, requiring that students be ready to use these modalities nearly simultaneously. Technology itself is changing quickly, creating a new urgency for students to be adaptable in response to change.

Comprehension and Collaboration

1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
3. Evaluate a speaker’s point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.
6. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

Speaking and Listening Standards 6-12

The following standards for grades 6–12 offer a focus for instruction in each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year’s grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Comprehension and Collaboration		
<p>6.SL.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.</p> <p>a. Come to discussions prepared having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.</p> <p>b. Follow rules for collegial discussions, set specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.</p> <p>c. Pose and respond to specific questions with elaboration and detail by making comments that contribute to the topic, text, or issue under discussion.</p> <p>d. Review the key ideas expressed and demonstrate understanding of multiple perspectives through reflection and paraphrasing.</p> <p>e. Cooperate, mediate, and problem solve to make decisions as appropriate for productive group discussion.</p>	<p>7.SL.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.</p> <p>a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.</p> <p>b. Follow rules for collegial discussions, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.</p> <p>c. Pose questions that elicit elaboration and respond to others’ questions and comments with relevant observations and ideas that bring the discussion back on topic as needed.</p> <p>d. Acknowledge new information expressed by others and, when warranted, modify their own views.</p> <p>e. Cooperate, mediate, and problem solve to make decisions as appropriate for productive group discussion.</p>	<p>8.SL.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.</p> <p>a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.</p> <p>b. Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.</p> <p>c. Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others’ questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas.</p> <p>d. Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented.</p> <p>e. Cooperate, mediate, and problem solve to make decisions as appropriate for productive group discussion.</p>
<p>6.SL.2 Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.</p>	<p>7.SL.2 Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how the ideas clarify a topic, text, or issue under study.</p>	<p>8.SL.2 Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media and formats and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.</p>
<p>6.SL.3 Delineate (break down) a speaker’s argument and specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.</p>	<p>7.SL.3 Delineate (break down) a speaker’s argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.</p>	<p>8.SL.3 Delineate (break down) a speaker’s argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.</p>

Speaking and Listening Standards 6-12

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas		
6.SL.4 Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.	7.SL.4 Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with pertinent descriptions, facts, details, and examples; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.	8.SL.4 Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.
6.SL.5 Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, images, music, sound) and visual displays in presentations to clarify information.	7.SL.5 Include multimedia components and visual displays in presentations to clarify claims and findings and emphasize salient points.	8.SL.5 Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.
6.SL.6 Adapt speech to a variety of contexts, audience, and tasks, using feedback from self and others and demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (See grade 6 Language standards 1 and 3 for specific expectations.)	7.SL.6 Adapt speech to a variety of contexts, audiences, and tasks, using self-reflection and feedback from others and demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (See grade 7 Language standards 1 and 3 for specific expectations.)	8.SL.6 Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, using self-reflection and feedback from others and demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (See grade 8 Language standards 1 and 3 for specific expectations.)

Speaking and Listening Standards 6-12

The CCR anchor standards and high school grade-specific standards work in tandem to define college and career readiness expectations—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity.

Grade 9-10 students:	Grade 11-12 students:
Comprehension and Collaboration	
<p>9-10.SL.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a variety of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.</p> <p>a. Come to discussions prepared having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.</p> <p>b. Collaborate with peers to set rules for collegial discussions and decision-making (e.g., informal consensus, taking votes on key issues, and presentation of alternate views), clear goals and deadlines, and individual roles as needed.</p> <p>c. Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions.</p> <p>d. Respond thoughtfully to various perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views and understanding and make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.</p>	<p>11-12.SL.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a variety of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.</p> <p>a. Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.</p> <p>b. Collaborate with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and deadlines, and establish individual roles as needed.</p> <p>c. Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that probe reasoning and evidence; ensure a hearing for a full range of positions on a topic or issue; clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions; and promote divergent and creative perspectives.</p> <p>d. Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task.</p>
<p>9-10.SL.2 Integrate multiple sources of information presented in media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally), evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source.</p>	<p>11-12.SL.2 Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among the data.</p>
<p>9-10.SL.3 Evaluate a speaker’s point of view, reasoning, intended audience, and use of evidence and rhetoric, identifying any faulty reasoning or exaggerated or distorted evidence.</p>	<p>11-12.SL.3 Evaluate a speaker’s point of view, reasoning, intended audience, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used.</p>
Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas	
<p>9-10.SL.4 Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.</p>	<p>11-12.SL.4 Present information, findings, and supporting evidence while respecting intellectual property; convey a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed, and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range of formal and informal tasks.</p>
<p>9-10.SL.5 Integrate digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.</p>	<p>11-12.SL.5 Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.</p>
<p>9-10.SL.6 Adapt speech to a variety of contexts, audiences, and tasks, using self-reflection and feedback from others, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (See grades 9–10 Language standards 1 and 3 for specific expectations.)</p>	<p>11-12.SL.6 Adapt speech to a variety of contexts, audiences, tasks, and feedback from self and others, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (See grades 11–12 Language standards 1 and 3 for specific expectations.)</p>

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Language

The grades 6–12 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

To be college and career ready in language, students must have firm control over the conventions of standard English. At the same time, they must come to appreciate that language is as at least as much a matter of craft as of rules and be able to choose words, syntax, and punctuation to express themselves and achieve particular functions and rhetorical effects. They must also have extensive vocabularies, built through reading and study, enabling them to comprehend complex texts and engage in purposeful writing about and conversations around content. They need to become skilled in determining or clarifying the meaning of words and phrases they encounter, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies to aid them. They must learn to see an individual word as part of a network of other words—words, for example, that have similar denotations but different connotations. The inclusion of Language standards in their own strand should not be taken as an indication that skills related to conventions, effective language use, and vocabulary are unimportant to reading, writing, speaking, and listening; indeed, they are inseparable from such contexts.

Conventions of Standard English

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Knowledge of Language

3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.
5. Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.
6. Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.

Language Standards 6-12

The following standards for grades 6–12 offer a focus for instruction each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year’s grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Conventions of Standard English		
<p>6.L.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (subjective, objective, and possessive). b. Use intensive pronouns (e.g., myself, ourselves, etc.). c. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person. d. Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents). e. Recognize variations from standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking, and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language. 	<p>7.L.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences. b. Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas. c. Place phrases and clauses within a sentence. d. Recognize and correct misplaced and dangling modifiers. 	<p>8.L.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences. b. Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice. c. Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood. d. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.
<p>6.L.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements. b. Spell correctly; consult references as needed. 	<p>7.L.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use a comma to separate coordinate adjectives (e.g., It was a fascinating, enjoyable movie). b. Spell correctly; consult references as needed. 	<p>8.L.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break. b. Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission. c. Spell correctly.
Knowledge of Language		
<p>6.L.3 Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style. b. Maintain consistency in style and tone. 	<p>7.L.3 Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.</p> <p>Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.</p>	<p>8.L.3 Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use verbs in the active and passive voice to achieve particular effects (e.g., emphasizing the actor or the action). b. Use verbs in the conditional and subjunctive mood to achieve particular effects (e.g. expressing uncertainty or describing a state contrary to fact).

Language Standards 6-12

Grade 6 students:	Grade 7 students:	Grade 8 students:
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use		
<p>6.L.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. b. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., audience, auditory, audible, etc.). c. Consult reference materials, both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech. d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase. 	<p>7.L.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. b. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., belligerent, bellicose, rebel). c. Consult general and specialized reference materials, both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech. d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase. 	<p>8.L.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 8 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. b. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., precede, recede, and secede). c. Consult general and specialized reference materials both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech. d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase.
<p>6.L.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., personification, etc.) in context. b. Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., cause/effect, part/whole, item/category) to better understand each of the words. c. Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., stingy, scrimping, economical, unwasteful, thrifty). 	<p>7.L.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Interpret figures of speech, including allusions (e.g., literary, biblical, mythological) in context. b. Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonym/antonym, analogy) to better understand each of the words. c. Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., refined, respectful, polite, diplomatic, condescending). 	<p>8.L.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Interpret figures of speech (e.g. verbal irony, puns) in context. b. Use the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words. c. Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., bullheaded, willful, firm, persistent, resolute).
<p>6.L.6 Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.</p>	<p>7.L.6 Acquire and accurately use grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.</p>	<p>8.L.6 Acquire and accurately use grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.</p>

Language Standards 6-12

The CCR anchor standards and high school grade-specific standards work in tandem to define college and career readiness expectations—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity.

Grade 9-10 students:	Grade 11-12 students:
Conventions of Standard English	
<p>9-10.L.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use parallel structure. b. Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, gerund, infinitive, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative, adverbial) to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations. 	<p>11-12.L.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contested. b. Resolve issues of complex or contested usage, consulting references as needed.
<p>9-10.L.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar; consult references as needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use a semicolon (and perhaps a conjunctive adverb) to link two or more closely related independent clauses. b. Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation. c. Spell correctly 	<p>11-12.L.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar; consult references as needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use hyphens and dashes correctly. b. Spell correctly; consult references as needed.
Knowledge of Language	
<p>9-10.L.3 Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening. Write and edit work so that it conforms to the guidelines in a style manual (e.g., MLA Handbook, APA Handbook) appropriate for the discipline and writing type.</p>	<p>11-12.L.3 Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening. Vary syntax for effect, consulting references for guidance as needed; apply an understanding of syntax to the study of complex texts when reading.</p>
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use	
<p>9-10.L.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9–10 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. b. Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy). c. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, or its etymology. d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary). 	<p>11-12.L.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 11–12 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. b. Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., conceive, conception, conceivable). c. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, its etymology, or its standard usage. d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

Grade 9-10 students:	Grade 11-12 students:
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use (continued)	
<p>9-10.L.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</p> <p>a. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., euphemism, oxymoron) in context and analyze their role in the text.</p> <p>b. Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.</p>	<p>11-12.L.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</p> <p>a. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text.</p> <p>b. Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.</p>
<p>9-10.L.6 Acquire and accurately use general academic and subject-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.</p>	<p>11-12.L.6 Acquire and accurately use general academic and subject-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.</p>