



Lighting the Way

PITTSBURGH CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

PREK-12

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM

2025-2026

*ALIGNED WITH PENNSYLVANIA
EDUCATION STANDARDS AND
INTEGRATED WITH CATHOLIC
IDENTITY PRINCIPLES*



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PITTSBURGH

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Diocese of Pittsburgh English Language Arts Curriculum

The English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum of the Diocese of Pittsburgh is designed to form students who are not only strong readers, writers, speakers, and listeners, but also individuals grounded in truth, integrity, and faith. Rooted in Catholic values and aligned with both the Pennsylvania Standards and Diocesan expectations, this curriculum ensures that our students are well-prepared for academic success and guided by a moral and spiritual foundation.

The curriculum is organized into five essential domains:

- Foundational Skills
- Reading Literature
- Reading Informational Text
- Writing
- Speaking and Listening

Each domain is carefully developed to promote growth in literacy while fostering critical thinking and meaningful communication. Students explore a range of texts that cultivate imagination, empathy, and discernment. They learn to write with purpose, speak with clarity, and listen attentively—all as part of their formation as faith-filled learners and future leaders.

Guided by the mission of Catholic education, this curriculum aims to develop literate, articulate students who can engage the world with both skill and virtue, ready to communicate truth with compassion and reflect the light of Christ in all they do.

Integrating Catholic Identity into English Language Arts Instruction

ELA instruction provides a powerful platform for exploring human dignity, the mystery and meaning of human life, ethical decision-making, and the pursuit of truth. Through literature, writing, and spoken language, students are invited to reflect on their role in the world as image-bearers of God and as members of a community called to serve others.



Teaching ELA Through a Catholic Lens

Language arts classrooms are uniquely positioned to nurture both academic and spiritual growth. As students analyze texts, construct arguments, and express their perspectives, they also engage with the transcendentals (universal attributes of reality) of truth, goodness and beauty, and timeless themes such as justice, freedom, responsibility, sacrifice, vocation, and mercy.

Teachers are encouraged to approach instruction with intentionality by:

- Selecting texts that elevate the human experience, provoke wonder, foster moral reflection, and strengthen virtue.
- Designing writing tasks that allow students to articulate their beliefs with intelligence, clarity, and compassion.
- Developing activities that foster creativity and joy
- Broadening the experiences of students to appreciate the backgrounds and cultures of others
- Integrating specifically Christian literature and culture (ex: Scripture, writings of the saints, Catholic authors...)
- Relating insights, themes, and symbolism from literature to our Christian faith
- Reminding that the human quest for justice, understanding, and achievement reflects a deeper human yearning for God, who is the fullness of truth, beauty, goodness and love.
- Encouraging classroom dialogue that models listening, respect, inquiry, objectivity, and empathy.
- Embedding principles of Catholic Social Teaching in the discussion of characters, conflicts, and themes.

Aligning the ELA Curriculum with our Mission

Integrating Catholic identity is not an additional requirement; it is the foundation that informs all aspects of instruction. It is present when a teacher guides students to see the goodness in a character's transformation, when students explore the meaning of vocation through a biography, or when a class considers how language can both build up or tear down communities. The literary arts are a special gift of God by which humanity reflects His creativity and promotes His kingdom. Helping students to



understand that writing, reading, and drama are gifts from our Father encourages them to appreciate how God's blessings abound in every part of life.

As we align our curriculum to state and diocesan standards, we remain rooted in our mission to educate the whole person, mind, body, and spirit. Catholic ELA instruction should inspire students to read deeply, write ethically, and speak with both conviction and charity. In keeping with the mission of a Catholic school, ELA teachers must ensure that the world view and moral direction of the content of their classes conform with Church teaching.

Goals for Faith-Infused ELA Instruction

Across all grade levels, ELA instruction should foster:

- A deep respect for the power of words to convey truth and promote justice.
- An appreciation for beauty, both in language and in human experience.
- Creativity, wonder, reverence, and joy.
- Appreciation for the giftedness of others and cultural expression.
- Appreciation for Christian culture and literature.
- Awareness of how the truths understood in literature reflect the fullness of truth found in God.
- Opportunities for discernment, dialogue, and moral reasoning.
- A commitment to using literacy as a tool for understanding, service and leadership.

This curriculum reflects our belief that literacy is a sacred gift, one that equips students not only for college and career, but for lives of faithful witness, purposeful action, creativity, reverence, and joy.



English Language Arts Curriculum Team

A Note of Gratitude

Thank you to our teachers and administrators for their work in creating this updated English Language Arts Curriculum, which integrates Pennsylvania English Language Arts standards with our Catholic values to ensure both academic rigor and spiritual growth. We are grateful for their expertise and dedication, which have produced a curriculum framework that fosters literacy, critical analysis, and faith formation.

English Language Arts Curriculum Team Members:

- | | |
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| 1. Renee Allen– Saint Wendelin Catholic School | 18. Kelly Morgano–Saint Therese Catholic School |
| 2. Rachel Aquino- Saints Peter and Paul School | 19. Elizabeth Payne– Mary of Nazareth Catholic School |
| 3. Hannah Brown- John F. Kennedy Catholic School | 20. Kathleen Phillips- North Catholic High School |
| 4. Melissa Benovitch-Gurdian Angel Academy | 21. Kristy Pietrone- Principal/ Saint Kilian Catholic School |
| 5. Katy Cancilla – Butler Catholic School | 22. Rebekah Reist – St. Therese Catholic School |
| 6. Kathy Criss – Mother of Mercy Academy | 23. Windelin Rickard – Ave Maria Academy |
| 7. Mary Crossen- Mary of Nazareth Catholic School | 24. Alicia Round – Saint Kilian Catholic School |
| 8. Julie Fabrizi – Holy Family Catholic School | 25. Charlotte Smith- Bishop Canevin Catholic High School |
| 9. Karen Georgiev – John F. Kennedy Catholic School | 26. Krissy Schuler– St. Louise de Marillac School |
| 10. Anna Marie Gomori – Saint. Kilian Catholic School | 27. Julie Seifert – St. Therese Catholic School |
| 11. Ellie Greaser – Saints Peter and Paul School | 28. Erin Stinson–Archangel Gabriel Catholic School |
| 12. Holly Herbertson– Seton LaSalle Catholic High School | 29. Erin Steinberg- Christ the Divine Teacher |
| 13. Cory Holland– Mary of Nazareth Catholic School | 30. Melissa Vaughan– St. James Catholic School |
| 14. Jill Ingold– St. Louise de Marillac School | 31. Rosemary Watson – Butler Catholic School |
| 15. Hallie Leach– St. Therese Catholic School | 32. Katie White- St.Louise de Marillac School |
| 16. Anna Maleski- Seton LaSalle Catholic High School | 33. Jerod Witwicki – Ave Maria Academy |
| 17. Jen Mattarochia – Archangel Gabriel Catholic School | 34. Nicole Wivell- Holy Cross Academy |



[Curriculum Links](#)

- [PreK-12 English Language Arts Scope and Sequence](#)
- [K-5 Grade Level Curriculum Framework/Checklist](#)
- [Grade Banded Standards \(K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12\)](#)
- [K-12 Writing Scope and Sequence](#)
- [Grade 6- Percy Jackson Novel Unit](#)
- [ELA Websites and Resources](#)



Protected Reading List

The Protected Reading List ensures that each grade level features unique, developmentally appropriate novels, allowing students to experience a wide range of literature throughout their K–12 journey. Titles are "protected" at designated grade levels to prevent repetition, especially for the K-8 transition and for students who transfer between schools. This guarantees all students encounter a rich variety of literary works that support both academic growth and a love of reading.

Grade	Novels
4th Grade	Abels Island by William Steig Best Christmas Pageant Ever
5th Grade	Wonder Holes Island of the Blue Dolphins
6th Grade	Hatchet Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief
7th Grade	The Outsiders The Hobbit
8th Grade	The Giver The Book Thief
9th Grade	Romeo and Juliet Fahrenheit 451 The Diary of Anne Frank
10th Grade	Julius Caesar 1984 To Kill a Mockingbird
11th Grade (American Literature Year)	Great Gatsby The Scarlet Letter Crucible
12th Grade (British Literature Year)	Canterbury Tales Beowulf Macbeth/Hamlet



Recommended Reading List

A curated selection from the Cardinal Newman Society, Catholic Teen Books, and Rush Woods recommended reading lists

PreK-2 Selections

- A Beautiful Moon: A Child's Prayer (Tonya Bolden, illustrated by Eric Velasquez)
- A Chair for My Mother (Vera B. Williams)
- A Farmer Boy Birthday (Adapted from the Little House Books by Laura Ingalls Wilder, illustrated by Jody Wheeler)
- All Things Bright and Beautiful (Cecil Frances Alexander, illustrated by Bruce Whatley)
- An Alphabet of the Altar and Other Holies (E. Vincent Wareing)
- Animalia (Graeme Base)
- A Pair of Red Clogs (Masako Matsuno, illustrated by Kazue Mizumura)
- Are You My Mother? (P.D. Eastman)
- A Nest is Noisy (Diana Hutts Aston, illustrated by Sylvia Long)
- A Tree is Nice (Janice Udry, illustrated by Marc Simont)
- Bartholomew and the Oobleck (Dr. Seuss)
- Bear Has a Story to Tell (Philip C. Stead, illustrated by Erin E. Stead)
- Birds (Brian Wildsmith)
- Clare and Francis (Guido Visconti, illustrated by Bimba Landmann)
- Crowdad Creek (Scott Russell Sanders, illustrated by Robert Hynes)
- Dory Fantasmagory
- Each Kindness (Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis)
- Egg in the Hole (Richard Scarry)
- Enemy Pie (Derek Munson, illustrated by Tara Calahan King)
- Erandi's Braids (Antonio Hernandez Madrigal, illustrated by Tomie dePaola)
- Every Time I Climb a Tree (David McCord)
- Father and Son (Denizé Lauture, illustrated by Jonathan Green)
- Flower Garden (Eve Bunting, illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt)
- Four Feet, Two Sandals (Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed, illustrated by Doug Chayka)
- From Seed to Plant (Gail Gibbons)



PreK-2 Selections continued

- Have You Seen My Duckling? (Nancy Tafuri)
- How a Seed Grows (Helene J. Jordan, illustrated by Joseph Low)
- I Like Winter (Lois Lenski)
- Isabella's Garden (Glenda Millard, illustrated by Rebecca Cool)
- I Went Walking (Sue Williams, illustrated by Julie Vivas)
- Johnny Appleseed (Reeve Lindbergh)
- Let the Whole Earth Sing Praise (Tomie dePaola)
- Look and Be Grateful (Tomie dePaola)
- Love Songs of the Little Bear (Margaret Wise Brown)
- Make Way For Ducklings (Robert McCloskey)
- Mama, Is It Summer Yet? (Nikki McClure)
- Marta and the Manger Straw: A Christmas Tradition From Poland (Virginia Kroll, illustrated by Robyn Belton)
- Meeting Trees (Scott Russell Sanders, illustrated by Robert Hynes)
- Miss Rumphius (Barbara Cooney)
- More Than Anything Else (Marie Bradby, illustrated by Chris K. Soentpiet)
- One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference (Katie Smith Milway, illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes)
- Outside Your Window: A First Book of Nature (Nicola Davies, illustrated by Mark Hearld)
- Rechenka's Eggs (Patricia Polacco)
- Saint Francis (Brian Wildsmith)
- Saint Valentine (Robert Sabuda)
- Silly Little Goose (Nancy Tafuri)
- Sing to the Stars (Mary Brigid Barrett, illustrated by Sandra Speidel)
- Sky Tree (Thomas Locker and Candace Christiansen, illustrated by Thomas Locker)
- Snow (Uri Shulevitz)
- Snowflake Bentley (Jacqueline Briggs Martin, illustrated by Mary Azarian)
- Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch (Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Paul Yalowitz)
- Song of the Stars: A Christmas Story (Sally Lloyd-Jones, illustrated by Alison Jay)
- Stephen's Feast (Jean Richardson, illustrated by Alice Engladger)
- Summer Is... (Charlotte Zolotow, illustrated by Ruth Lercher Bornstein)



PreK-2 Selections continued

- Thank You, Dear God! (Helen Haidle, illustrated by Susan Banta)
- The Best Nest (P.D. Eastman)
- The Big Snow (Berta and Elmer Hader)
- The Boy Who Wanted to Cook (Gloria Whelan, illustrated by Steve Adams)
- The Carrot Seed (Ruth Krauss, illustrated by Crockett Johnson)
- The Curious Garden (Peter Brown)
- The Dead Bird (Margaret Wise Brown, illustrated by Remi Charlip)
- The Elves and the Shoemaker (Paul Galdone)
- The Empty Pot (Demi)
- The Friendly Beasts: An Old English Christmas Carol (Tomie dePaola)
- The Golden Egg Book (Margaret Wise Brown, illustrated by Lilian Obligado)
- The Ink Garden of Brother Theophane (C.M. Millen)
- The King at the Door (Brock Cole)
- The Legend of the Persian Carpet (Tomie dePaola, illustrated by Claire Ewart)
- The Little Island (Margaret Wise Brown, illustrated by Leonard Weisgard)
- The Rag Coat (Lauren Mills)
- The Rainbow Fish (Marcus Pfister)
- The Rooster's Gift (Pam Conrad, illustrated by Eric Beddows)
- The Tiny Seed (Eric Carle)
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar (Eric Carle)
- The Weight of a Mass: A Tale of Faith (Josephine Nobisso, illustrated by Katalin Sezgedi)
- This Quiet Lady (Charlotte Zolotow, illustrated by Anita Lobel)
- Two Bad Ants (Chris Van Allsburg)
- Tomie de Paola Saint Books
- Water Can Be... (Laura Purdie Salas, illustrated by Violeta Dabija)
- What Makes a Bird a Bird? (May Garelick)
- When Spring Comes (Kevin Henkes, illustrated by Laura Dronzek)
- When the Wind Stops (Charlotte Zolotow, illustrated by Stefano Vitale)
- You Were Loved Before You Were Born (Eve Bunting, illustrated by Karen Barbour)



Grades 3-5 Selections

- A Boy Named Giotto (Paolo Guarnieri, illustrated by Bimba Landmann)
- Adventures of Pinocchio (Carlo Collodi, illustrated by Roberto Innocenti)
- An Orange for Frankie (Patricia Polacco)
- Any of the Tomie dePaola Saint books
- Beauty and the Beast (Jan Brett)
- Because of Winn-Dixie
- Boxes for Katje (Candice Fleming, illustrated by Stacey Dressen-McQueen)
- Brian's Winter
- Charlotte's Web
- Gilgamesh the King (Ludmila Zeman)
- Hatchet
- Holes
- Homer Price (Robert McCloskey)
- Juan Verdades: The Man Who Couldn't Tell a Lie (Retold by Joe Hayes, illustrated by Joseph Daniel Fiedler)
- King Midas and the Golden Touch (Charlotte Craft, illustrated by K.Y. Craft)
- Lassie Come Home (Rosemary Wells, illustrated by Susan Jeffers)
- Little House in the Big Woods (Laura Ingalls Wilder, illustrated by Garth Williams)
- Maniac Magee
- Mr. Popper's Penguins (Richard and Florence Atwater)
- Number the Stars
- Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing
- The Blue Fairy Book (Andrew Lang, illustrated by Henry J. Ford)
- The Boxcar Children Series (Gertrude Chandler Warner)
- The Cricket in Times Square (George Selden, illustrated by Garth Williams)
- The Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
- The Moffats (Eleanor Estes, illustrated by Louis Slobodkin)
- The One and Only Ivan
- The Woods Runner
- Wonder
- EllRay Jakes Is Not a Chicken (series) Sally Warner



Grades 3-5 Selections continued

- Nikki & Deja (series) by Karen English
- Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs (series) Sharon M. Draper
- Ways to Make Sunshine by: Renée Watson
- Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis
- The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963 Christopher Paul Curtis
- One Crazy Summer Rita Williams-Garcia
- Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Grades 6-8 Selections

This is a great website for middle school and high school students. We found our featured authors for the DOP LitFest on this site:

<https://www.catholicteenbooks.com/>

- A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens
- A Horse and His Boy (C.S. Lewis)
- A Little Princess (Frances Hodgson Burnett)
- Animal Farm - George Orwell
- Anne of Green Gables (Lucy Maud Montgomery)
- As Brave As You Jason Reynolds
- Because of Mr. Tariff
- Before the Ever After --Jacqueline Woodson
- Black Beauty (Anna Sewell)
- Brown Girl Dreaming - Jacqueline Woodson
- Calico Captive (Elizabeth George Speare)
- Fahrenheit 451- by Ray Bradbury
- Farewell to Manzanar - Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston
- Fever 1793 Laura Halse Andersen
- Gone Crazy in Alabama Rita Williams-Garcia
- Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad - Ann Petry
- Hatchet (Gary Paulson)
- King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table - Roger Lancelyn Green
- Locomotion - Jacqueline Woodson
- My Side of the Mountain (Jean Craighead George)



Grades 6-8 Selections continued

- Number the Stars
- Out of the Dust - Karen Hesse
- Pollyanna (Eleanor H. Porter)
- Prince Caspian
- Rebound - Kwame Alexander
- Redwall Series (Brian Jacques)
- Stella by Starlight Sharon M. Draper
- Swiss Family Robinson (Johann David Wyss)
- The Crossover - Kwame Alexander
- The Golden Key (George MacDonald)
- The Golden Princess and the Moon (Anna Maria Mendell)
- The Hiding Place (Corrie Ten Boom)
- The Hobbit (J.R.R. Tolkien)
- The Last Battle
- The Legend of Sleepy Hollow - Washington Irving
- The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe
- The Long Winter (Laura Ingalls Wilder)
- The Magician's Nephew
- The Princess Bride (William Goldman)
- The Screwtape Letters (C.S. Lewis)
- The Secret Garden (Frances Hodgson Burnett)
- The Silver Chair
- The Sword in the Stone (T.H. White)
- The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle Avi
- The Voyage of the Dawn Treader
- The Westing Game - Ellen Raskin
- The Whipping Boy (Sid Fleischman)
- The Wind in the Willows (Kenneth Grahame)
- The Wizard of Oz - L. Frank Baum
- The Yearling (Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings)
- Where the Red Fern Grows-- Wilson Rawls

Non Fiction

- Blessed Marie of New France (Mary Fabyan Windeatt)
- Saint Benedict, Hero of the Hills (Mary Fabyan Windeatt)



Grades 6-8 Selections continued

- Saint Catherine of Siena (Mary Fabyan Windeatt)
- Saint Dominic (Mary Fabyan Windeatt)
- Saint Hyacinth of Poland (Mary Fabyan Windeatt)
- Saint John Masias (Mary Fabyan Windeatt)
- Saint Monica (F.A. Forbes)
- Saint Rose of Lima (Mary Fabyan Windeatt)
- Saint Thomas Aquinas (Mary Fabyan Windeatt)
- The Children of Fatima (Mary Fabyan Windeatt)
- The Life of Frederick Douglass (Frederick Douglass)
- The Miraculous Medal (Mary Fabyan Windeatt)

Grades 9-12 Selections

- 1984
- A Man for All Seasons (Bolt)
- A Tale of Two Cities (Dickens)
- A Voyage Round the World (Dampier)
- All Quiet on the Western Front (Erich Maria Remarque)
- An Enemy of the People (Ibsen)
- And Then There Were None (Christi)
- Animal Farm and/or 1984 (Orwell)
- Brave New World (Aldous Huxley)
- Canterbury Tales [excerpts] (Chaucer)
- Come Rack! Come Rope! (Benson)
- Crime and Punishment (Dostoyevsky)
- Death Comes for the Archbishop (Cather)
- Death of a Salesman (Miller)
- Diary of a Country Priest (Bernanos)
- Don Quixote (Cervantes) El Cid (Racine)
- Fahrenheit 451
- Frankenstein (Mary Shelley)
- Gulliver's Travels (Swift)
- Hamlet (William Shakespeare)
- Hamlet, Macbeth, and others (Shakespeare)
- Huckleberry Finn (Twain)

Grades 9-12 Selections continued

- Hunchback of Notre Dame (Hugo)
- Jane Eyre (Bronte)
- Joan of Arc (Twain)
- Kim (Kipling)
- Le Morte D'Arthur (Malory)
- Les Miserables (Hugo)
- Les Misérables (Victor Hugo)
- Lieutenant Hornblower Series (Forester)
- Lord Jim (Conrad)
- Lord of the Flies (William Golding)
- Lorna Doone (Blackmore)
- Macbeth (William Shakespeare)
- Man in the Iron Mask (Dumas)
- Moby Dick (Herman Melville)
- Old Man and the Sea (Hemingway)
- One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich (Solzhenitsyn)
- Pride and Prejudice (Austen)
- Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen)
- Red Badge of Courage (Crane)
- Sense and Sensibility or Persuasion, or Emma (Austen)
- Short Stories (Poe)
- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Mark Twain)
- The Brothers Karamazov (Fyodor Dostoyevsky)
- The Catcher in the Rye (J.D. Salinger)
- The Count of Monte Cristo (Alexandre Dumas)
- The Divine Comedy [Excerpts] (Dante Alighieri)
- The Great Gatsby (F. Scott Fitzgerald)
- The Iliad [Excerpts] (Homer)
- The Odyssey [Excerpts] (Homer)
- The Old Man and the Sea (Ernest Hemingway)
- The Scarlet Letter (Nathaniel Hawthorne)
- To Kill a Mockingbird (Harper Lee)
- Wuthering Heights (Emily Brontë)



Diocese of Pittsburgh

K–8 Writing Instruction Guide

Created by ELA Curriculum Team

2025 Edition

Introduction

Writing is a vital skill that empowers students to communicate clearly and effectively across personal, academic, and professional settings. More than a technical ability, writing is a means of reflection, exploration, and formation. It is essential for developing one's voice, organizing thought, and expressing truth.

In Catholic education, writing instruction supports the intellectual and spiritual growth of students. It invites them to think critically, speak charitably, and write with clarity and purpose. While English Language Arts teachers lead explicit writing instruction, all educators share responsibility for nurturing strong communication skills across disciplines.

This guide outlines the Diocese of Pittsburgh's expectations with writing to guide students toward competence, confidence, and creativity in their written work. Ultimately, our goal is to graduate students who can express themselves with precision and conviction, as faithful stewards of both word and wisdom.

This guide aims to support students and teachers in developing strong writing skills across different grades, ensuring consistency, clarity, and professionalism in all writing projects.



Modes of Writing

In the Diocese of Pittsburgh, students learn to write with purpose and clarity across a variety of settings. The mode of a writing piece refers to its goal—what the writer is trying to do—and should always be shaped by both the audience and the purpose.

Our writing instruction emphasizes three main academic writing modes:

- Persuasive /Argumentative Writing – making a claim and supporting it with evidence
- Narrative Writing – telling a story or recounting events with detail and structure
- Informative/Explanatory Writing – explaining a topic or sharing factual information (documenting text evidence)

Students will also explore creative writing, which helps them express ideas, emotions, and imagination beyond academic formats.

Each mode has specific elements and strategies, but strong writing often combines multiple skills. To help students structure their thinking and support their ideas, teachers introduce patterns of development—ways to organize writing effectively. These include:

Writing Stamina

	Beginning of the Year	End of Year
Grade K:	0 min	10 min
Grade 1	3-5 min	15 min
Grade 2	5-8 min	20 min
Grades 3-12	8-15 min	30-40 min



Writing Purpose and Audience

Writing Purpose	Grade 3	Grade 8	Grade 12
To persuade/argue	30%	35%	40%
To inform	40%	40%	40%
Narrative	30%	25%	20%

Mode Specific Genres

Writing mode	Persuasive	Informative	Narrative
Mode Specific	• Proposal • Suggestion • Request • Recommendation • Debate • Argumentative research paper • Argumentative analysis	• Explanation • Citing text evidence • Summarizing • Paraphrasing • Encyclopedia entry • Directions • Informative research paper • compare/contrast writing • interview	• Personal narrative • Realistic fiction • Fantasy • Graphic novel • Rewrite from a different perspective • Fiction based on fact

Mode flexible formats	Letter Email	Essay Speech	Poster Article	Script Summary	Literary analysis
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Research Skills

Teacher Approved Internet Research Sites

- [Sweet Search](#)
- [POWER LIBRARY](#)



- [BLS Career Exploration](#)
- [Career One Stop](#)

Prewriting and Outlining

Brainstorming

- Generate ideas through discussions, mind maps, or free writing.

Creating Outlines

- Grades 5-6: Handwritten outlines.
- Grades 7-8: Use Google Classroom for outlining.

Note Taking Methods

- Grades 5-6: Handwritten notes.
- Grades 7-8: Digital notes in Google Classroom.

Paraphrasing and Avoiding Plagiarism

- Practice paraphrasing to put information in your own words.
- Learn what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it.

Simplified Citation Methods

- For younger students: Use basic citation formats with author's name and title.

Drafting and Editing

Writing the Rough Draft

- Intro/Hook: Start with an engaging opening.
- Thesis: State the main idea or argument.
- Body: Develop your points with supporting evidence.
- Conclusion: Summarize and close effectively.

Editing and Revising

- GUMPS: Focus on Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, Punctuation, and Spelling.



- Common Areas of Struggle: Sentence structure(variety and length) and paragraph organization.

Formatting and Presentation

Document Formatting

- Grades 5-8:
 - Font: 12-point Times New Roman
 - Color: Black
 - Spacing: Double-spaced
 - Indentation: Indent paragraphs

Understanding Primary and Secondary Sources

- Primary Sources: Firsthand information or direct evidence about a topic (e.g., diaries, interviews, original research).
- Secondary Sources: Analysis or interpretation of primary sources (e.g., textbooks, biographies, documentaries).

Citation and MLA Introduction

- 5th Grade: Introduce MLA with one source
- 6th Grade: Revisit MLA with one class source and one individual source
- 7th Grade: Cite three sources
- 8th Grade: Cite three to five sources

Works Cited Page

- Use Easybib, Citation Machine, or create citations by hand.

Sample Works Cited Page

- Include author, title, publisher, and publication date.

Grade-Specific Formatting Requirements

- Follow the standard formatting unless otherwise specified for presentations or displays.



Sources and Citations

Approved Sources to Use

- At least the number of sources specified for each grade level(see list above).
- Avoid Wikipedia and unverified student projects.
- Use websites, books, journal articles, podcasts, etc.

Simplified Citation Methods

- Use basic formats appropriate for the student's grade level.

Citing AI Tools

- In-text citation: Describe the AI tool and its output.
- Works Cited:
 - Format: "Title of AI tool," Version number, Company/Developer, Date accessed.
- Example:
 - In-text citation: "The analysis suggests a potential link between..." ("AI-generated content analysis," Bard 1.0, Google AI, 27 February 2024).
 - Works Cited: "Bard 1.0," Version 1.0, Google AI, 27 February 2024.

Additional Resources

- Citation Facts for Kids: [Kids Kiddle Citation](#).
- MLA Style Guidelines: [Purdue OWL MLA Style](#) . [MLA Style Center](#)
- Simplified Citation Resources: Check specific guides for younger students.

Happy Writing!