

Front Matter

Grammar

Overview

Explicit and Integrated Grammar Instruction

With the advent of AI, it will be more important than ever to enable students to analyze texts critically and understand sentences, paragraphs, word choice, and English Grammar. Students need to know how to make choices in the context of rhetorical effect, for their own creative purposes but also as they leverage and evaluate text written by others including generative AI.

Our curriculum lays the groundwork for that understanding and practice (Kolln, Gray, & Salvatore, 2016.) Language instruction, including grammar, punctuation, usage, and conventions of English is embedded in a variety of ways throughout the reading and writing experience. ThinkCERCA provides Direct Instruction and Skills Practice in the elements of style (Strunk & White, 1972.) Through our explicit instruction in academic language stems and our task-specific progression of sentence supports, we support the development of sophisticated sentence writing. The Core curriculum offers additional instruction in our “Write to Impress” and “Sharpen Your Sentences” Student Guide pages as well as revision strategy pages in the culminating portfolio tasks. By helping students pay attention to the patterns that make powerful writing, we allow them to become more proficient in the conventions of English. This helps shape them into more thoughtful choice-makers as their writing grows more and more powerful (Hochman & Wexler, 2017; Tufte, 2010; Williams, 2004). We also have explicit opportunities to assess students’ knowledge and mastery within our Direct Instruction, Skills Practice, and ACT and SAT practice assessments.

Our approach to grammar instruction in context

By engaging in a range of explicit Direct Instruction and Skills Practice with grammar, punctuation, usage, and conventions of English, students will understand formal academic English language and expectations regarding language usage in academic and workplace settings. In the context of the topics and themes of the unit, students will have an opportunity to apply this

understanding in “Write to Impress” Student Guide activities. Explicit practice through sentence-level writing progressions in the “Sharpen Your Sentences” pages serve both as part of the anchor text reading experiences and also as syntax-level support for writing and language skills acquisition. Finally, ThinkCERCA supplies curriculum-embedded sentence stems to support fluency in academic language and digital support for improving writing at the language, syntax, and conventions levels.

In addition to ThinkCERCA’s offerings, we have partnered with Quill.org to provide personalized instruction in grammar. Through this selection of instructional supports and practice opportunities, students will learn the rules of English grammar, punctuation, usage, and conventions of English, understand the impact of their choices as writers, and be able to apply them in writing, revision, and textual analysis.

- Students will independently apply the conventions of English correctly in their writing.
- Students will be able to edit and revise errors in syntax, usage, and other aspects of language, including grammar and punctuation, in their work and in standardized assessments.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in the use of grammar, punctuation, usage, and conventions of English in writing and in speaking.
- Students will be capable of making thoughtful choices about syntax, tone, and other language and sentence-level choices for stylistic effect based on the occasion and purpose of their communication.
- Students will be able to provide feedback to peers regarding aspects of formal written English.
- Students will be able to leverage tools to continuously improve their writing, including browser extensions such as Grammarly.

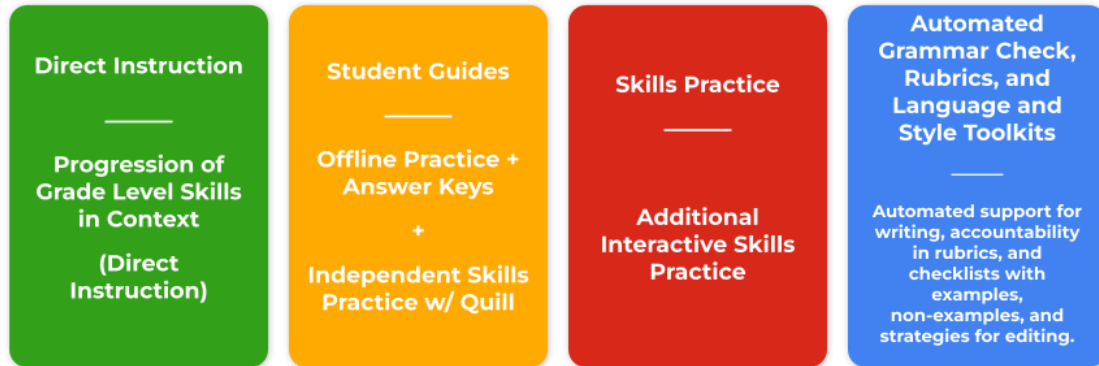
Grammar, Punctuation, Usage, and Conventions of English Routines (Blended)

Skills Progressions

- Direct Instruction and Interactive Skills Practice in the rules of English and elements of style (online)
- Skills progressions from sentence building to paragraphing (offline)
- Sentence stems modeling academic terms (online)
- Comprehensive writing instruction across genres (blended)
- Automated feedback
- Grade-level checklists to ensure students are applying their skills (offline)

Grades 3-12

Explicit Grammar Instruction



The Experience (Samples)

DI Lesson: [Commas](#)

[Sharpen Your Sentences](#)
[Write To Impress](#)

Skills Lesson:
[Punctuation: Periods, Colons, and Semicolons](#)

Language & Style Toolkits:
[Grade 6](#)
[Grade 10](#)