

NRSD Curriculum Standards for ELA

Grade 8: Speaking and Listening (SL)

Comprehension and Collaboration

CC.8.SL.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative conversations (one-on-one and in groups) with diverse partners about grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

CC.8.SL.1a 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.

CC.8.SL.1b Work with peers to set rules for collegial discussion, clear goals and deadlines, and individual roles as needed while applying rules for formal discussion (classroom, parliamentary debate, town meeting rules).

CC.8.SL.1c Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and elicit elaboration, and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas.

CC.8.SL.1d Acknowledge and integrate new information expressed by others and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views and understanding in light of the evidence presented.

CC.8.SL.2 Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.

CC.8.SL.3 Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

CC.8.SL.4 Present claims and findings in media presentations or oral presentations, 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.

CC.8.SL.5 Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.

CC.8.SL.6 Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English where indicated or appropriate and use appropriate rhetorical techniques. (See grade 8 Language standards 1 and 3 for specific expectations.)

Grade 8: Language (L)
Conventions of Standard English
CC.8.L.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
CC.8.L.1a Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences.
CC.8.L.1b Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice
CC.8.L.1c Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive voice.
CC.8.L.1d Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in voice and mood.
CC.8.L.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
CC.8.L.2a Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or a break.
CC.8.L.2b Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission.
CC.8.L.2c Spell correctly.
CC.8.L.3 Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
CC.8.L.3a Use verbs in the active and passive voice and in the conditional and subjunctive mood to achieve particular effects (e.g., emphasizing the actor or the action; expressing uncertainty or describing a state contrary to fact).
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use
CC.8.L.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on grade 8 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
CC.8.L.4a Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
CC.8.L.4b Use grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., precede, recede, secede).
CC.8.L.4c 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 or part of speech.
CC.8.L.4d 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).
CC.8.L.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
CC.8.L.5.a. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., verbal irony, puns) in context.
CC.8.L.5.b. Use the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words.
CC.8.L.5.c. Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., bullheaded, willful, firm, persistent, resolute).
CC.8.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.

Grade 8: Reading Literature (RL)

Key Ideas and Details

CC.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.

CC.8.RL.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.

CC.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

CC.8.RL.4 Determine the meaning of words or phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning, mood, and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

NRSD.8.RL.5 Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and identify and analyze how the differing structure and/or genre of each text contributes to its meaning and style while accomplishing an author's purpose.

CC.8.RL.6 Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or readers (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

CC.8.RL.7 Identify, analyze, and assess the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script.

MA.8.RL.8a Identify and analyze the characteristics of irony and parody in literary works.

CC.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 such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered anew.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

CC.8.RL.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Reading Informational Text (RI)
Key Ideas and Details
CC.8.RI.1 Cite textual evidence that most strongly supports analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
NRSD.8.RI.1a Cite textual evidence and include knowledge of text structure and analysis of text features.
CC.8.RI.2 Determine a central idea in a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.
NRSD.8.RI.2a Determine and analyze the author's purpose.
NRSD.8.RI.2b Recognize organizational structures and use of arguments for and against an issue.
CC.8.RI.3 Analyze how a text makes connections and distinctions between individuals, events, and ideas (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).
Craft and Structure
CC.8.RI.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choice on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
NRSD.8.RI.4a Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words using knowledge of common Greek and Latin roots, suffixes, and prefixes.
NRSD.8.RI.4b Determine pronunciations, meanings, alternate word choices, parts of speech, and etymologies of words using dictionaries and thesauruses.
CC.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.
NRSD.8.RI.5a Analyze the role of footnotes, index, and a works cited.
CC.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
CC.8.RI.7 Evaluate and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.
NRSD.8.RI.7a Analyze the effect of different mediums on the reader's or viewer's emotions.
CC.8.RI.8 Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant information is introduced.
CC.8.RI.9 Analyze a case in which two or more texts present conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation.
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity
CC.8.RI.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Grade 8: Writing (W)

Text Types and Purposes

CC.8.W.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

NRSD.8.W.1 Write arguments to support claims that include a thesis statement, relevant and specific evidence from the text, and a conclusion using appropriate rhetorical techniques for a variety of purposes.

CC.8.W.1a Introduce claim(s) about a topic or issue, acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.

CC.8.W.1b Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating understanding of the topic or text.

CC.8.W.1c Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

CC.8.W.1d Establish and maintain a formal style.

CC.8.W.1e Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.

CC.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.

CC.8.W.2a 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), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

CC.8.W.2b Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.

CC.8.W.2c Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.

CC.8.W.2d Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

CC.8.W.2e Establish and maintain a formal style.

CC.8.W.2f Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.

CC.8.W.3 Write narratives (ex. stories, scripts, poems, etc.) to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

CC.8.W.3a 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.

CC.8.W.3b Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

CC.8.W.3c Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.

Grade 8: Writing (W) - continued

CC.8.W.3d Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language (i.e. figurative language) to capture the action and convey experiences and events.

CC.8.W.3e Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects the narrated experiences or events.

MA.8.W.3a Write short narratives, poems, scripts, or personal reflections that demonstrate understanding of the concepts of irony or parody

Production and Distribution of Writing

CC.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.)

CC.8.W.5 With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, 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.)

CC.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.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

CC.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.

CC.8.W.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

CC.8.W.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

CC.8.W.9a Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns, of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new”).

CC.8.W.9b Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced”).

Range of Writing

CC.8.W.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 discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.