



GRADES 11-12

READING

Guiding Principle: *Students read a wide range of fiction, nonfiction, classic, and contemporary works, to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace. Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They read a wide range of literature in many genres from a variety of time periods and cultures from around the world to build an understanding of the many dimensions (e.g., philosophical, ethical, aesthetic) of human experience. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, and reading skills that they have developed and refined.¹*

READING: Literature

There are three key areas found in the Reading: Literature section for grades 6-12: Key Ideas and Textual Support, Structural Elements and Organization, and Synthesis and Connection of Ideas. By demonstrating the skills listed in each section, students should be able to meet the Learning Outcome for Reading: Literature.

Learning Outcome

11-12.RL.1 Read a variety of literature within a range of complexity appropriate for grades 11-CCR. By the end of grade 11, students interact with texts proficiently and independently at the low end of the range and with scaffolding as needed for texts at the high end of the range. By the end of grade 12, students interact with texts proficiently and independently.

Key Ideas and Textual Support

11-12.RL.2.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what a text says explicitly as well as inferences and interpretations drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

11-12.RL.2.2 Compare and contrast the development of similar themes or central ideas across two or more works of literature and analyze how they emerge and are shaped and refined by specific details.

11-12.RL.2.3 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).

11-12.RL.2.4 *Students are expected to build upon and continue applying concepts learned previously.*

Structural Elements and Organization

11-12.RL.3.1 Analyze and evaluate how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a work of literature (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.

11-12.RL.3.2 Analyze a work of literature in which the reader must distinguish between what is directly stated and what is intended (e.g., satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement) in order to understand the point of view. [FF]



Synthesis and Connection of Ideas

- 11-12.RL.4.1** Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, play, or poem, evaluating how each version interprets the source text and the impact of the interpretations on the audience.
- 11-12.RL.4.2** Analyze and evaluate works of literary or cultural significance in history (American, English, or world) and the way in which these works have used archetypes drawn from myths, traditional stories, or religious works, as well as how two or more of the works treat similar themes, conflicts, issues, or topics.



READING: *Nonfiction*

There are three key areas found in the Reading: Nonfiction section for grades 6-12: Key Ideas and Textual Support, Structural Elements and Organization, and Synthesis and Connection of Ideas. By demonstrating the skills listed in each section, students should be able to meet the Learning Outcome for Reading: Nonfiction.

Learning Outcome

11-12.RN.1 Read a variety of nonfiction within a range of complexity appropriate for grades 11-CCR. By the end of grade 11, students interact with texts proficiently and independently at the low end of the range and with scaffolding as needed for texts at the high end of the range. By the end of grade 12, students interact with texts proficiently and independently.

Key Ideas and Textual Support

- 11-12.RN.2.1** Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what a text says explicitly as well as inferences and interpretations drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
- 11-12.RN.2.2** Compare and contrast the development of similar central ideas across two or more texts and analyze how they emerge and are shaped and refined by specific details.
- 11-12.RN.2.3** 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 a text.

Structural Elements and Organization

- 11-12.RN.3.1** *Students are expected to build upon and continue applying concepts learned previously.*
- 11-12.RN.3.2** 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.
- 11-12.RN.3.3** Determine an author's perspective or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective (*e.g., appeals to both friendly and hostile audiences, anticipates and addresses reader concerns and counterclaims*), analyzing how style and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness or beauty of the text.

Synthesis and Connection of Ideas

- 11-12.RN.4.1** Delineate and evaluate the arguments and specific claims in seminal U.S. and world texts, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning.
- 11-12.RN.4.2** Synthesize and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.
- 11-12.RN.4.3** Analyze and synthesize foundational U.S. and world documents of historical and literary significance for their themes, purposes, and rhetorical features.



READING: Vocabulary

There are two key areas found in the Reading: Vocabulary section for grades 6-12: Vocabulary Building and Vocabulary in Literature and Nonfiction Texts. By demonstrating the skills listed in each section, students should be able to meet the Learning Outcome for Reading: Vocabulary.

Learning Outcome

11-12.RV.1 Acquire and use accurately general academic and content-specific words and phrases at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. [2]

Vocabulary Building

11-12.RV.2.1 Use context to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases.

11-12.RV.2.2 *Students are expected to build upon and continue applying concepts learned previously.*

11-12.RV.2.3 Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.

11-12.RV.2.4 Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (*e.g., conceive, conception, conceivable*).

11-12.RV.2.5 Select appropriate general and specialized reference materials, both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, part of speech, etymology, or standard usage. [7][7]

Vocabulary in Literature and Nonfiction Texts

11-12.RV.3.1 Analyze the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in works of literature, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices (*e.g., imagery, allegory, and symbolism*) 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.RV.3.2 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a nonfiction text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; evaluate the cumulative impact of how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term or terms over the course of a text.

11-12.RV.3.3 Interpret figures of speech (*e.g., paradox*) in context and analyze their role in the text.



WRITING

Guiding Principle: *Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes. Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions, media techniques, figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss writing. Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate, and synthesize data from a variety of sources to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience.ⁱⁱ*

WRITING

There are four key areas found in the Writing section for grades 6-12: Writing Genres, the Writing Process, the Research Process, and Conventions of Standard English. By demonstrating the skills listed in each section, students should be able to meet the Learning Outcome for Writing.

Learning Outcome

11-12.W.1 Write routinely over a variety of time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences; apply reading standards to support analysis, reflection, and research by drawing evidence from literature and nonfiction texts. 

Handwriting

11-12.W.2 *Students are expected to build upon and continue applying concepts learned previously.*

Writing Genres: Argumentative, Informative, and Narrative

- 11-12.W.3.1** Write **arguments** in a variety of forms that –
- 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.
 - 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.
 - Use effective transitions 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.
 - Establish and maintain a consistent style and tone appropriate to purpose and audience.
 - Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.



11-12.W.3.2

Write **informative** compositions in a variety of forms that –

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Choose language, content-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.
- Establish and maintain a style appropriate to the purpose and audience.
- 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*).

11-12.W.3.3

Write **narrative** compositions in a variety of forms that –

- 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.
- Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- 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*).
- Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
- Provide an ending that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.

The Writing Process

11-12.W.4

Apply the **writing process** to –

- Plan and develop; draft; revise using appropriate reference materials; rewrite; try a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience; and edit to produce and strengthen writing that is clear and coherent.
- Use technology to generate, produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information. 



The Research Process: Finding, Assessing, Synthesizing, and Reporting Information

- 11-12.W.5** Conduct short as well as more sustained research assignments and tasks to build knowledge about the research process and the topic under study.
- Formulate an inquiry question, and refine and narrow the focus as research evolves.
 - Gather relevant information from multiple types of authoritative sources, using advanced searches effectively, and annotate sources.
 - Assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience.
 - Synthesize and integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas.
 - Avoid plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and follow a standard format (*e.g., MLA, APA*) for citation.
 - Present information, choosing from a variety of formats.

Conventions of Standard English: Grammar and Usage / Capitalization, Punctuation, and Spelling

11-12.W.6.1 Demonstrate command of English grammar and usage, focusing on:

11-12.W.6.1a **Pronouns –**
Students are expected to build upon and continue applying conventions learned previously.

11-12.W.6.1b **Verbs –**
Students are expected to build upon and continue applying conventions learned previously.

11-12.W.6.1c **Adjectives and Adverbs –**
Students are expected to build upon and continue applying conventions learned previously.

11-12.W.6.1d **Phrases and Clauses –**
Students are expected to build upon and continue applying conventions learned previously.

11-12.W.6.1e **Usage –**
Students are expected to build upon and continue applying conventions learned previously.

11-12.W.6.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling focusing on:

11-12.W.6.2a **Capitalization –**
Students are expected to build upon and continue applying conventions learned previously.

11-12.W.6.2b **Punctuation –**
Students are expected to build upon and continue applying conventions learned previously.

11-12.W.6.2c **Spelling –**
Students are expected to build upon and continue applying conventions learned previously.



SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Guiding Principle: *Students listen actively and communicate effectively for a variety of purposes, including for learning, enjoyment, persuasion, and the exchange of information and ideas. Students adjust their use of language to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes. Students develop an understanding of and respect for diversity in language use, patterns, and dialects.*ⁱⁱⁱ

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

There are three key areas found in the Speaking and Listening section for grades 6-12: Discussion and Collaboration, Comprehension, and Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas. By demonstrating the skills listed in each section, students should be able to meet the Learning Outcome for Speaking and Listening.

Learning Outcome

11-12.SL.1 Listen actively and adjust the use of spoken language (*e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary*) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes. ☐

Discussion and Collaboration

- 11-12.SL.2.1** Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) on grade-appropriate topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing personal ideas clearly and persuasively.
- 11-12.SL.2.2** Stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned debate and exchange of ideas by referring to specific evidence from materials under study and additional research and resources.
- 11-12.SL.2.3** Stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned debate and exchange of ideas by referring to specific evidence from materials under study and additional research and resources.
- 11-12.SL.2.4** 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.
- 11-12.SL.2.5** Conduct debate and discussion to allow all views to be presented; allow for a dissenting view, in addition to group compromise; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task. ☐

Comprehension

- 11-12.SL.3.1** Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media and 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.
- 11-12.SL.3.2** Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used. ☐



Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

- 11-12.SL.4.1** Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying 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.
- 11-12.SL.4.2** Create engaging presentations that make strategic and creative use of digital media (*e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements*) to add interest and enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence.
- 11-12.SL.4.3** *Students are expected to build upon and continue applying concepts learned previously.*



MEDIA LITERACY

Guiding Principle: *Students develop critical thinking about the messages received and created by media. Students recognize that media are a part of culture and function as agents of socialization and develop understanding that people use individual skills, beliefs, and experiences to construct their own meanings from media messages. Students develop media literacy skills in order to become more informed, reflective, and engaged participants in society.^{iv}*

MEDIA LITERACY

By demonstrating the skills listed in Media Literacy, students should be able to meet the Learning Outcome for Media Literacy.

Learning Outcome

11-12.ML.1 Critically analyze information found in electronic, print, and mass media used to inform, persuade, entertain, and transmit culture.

Media Literacy

11-12.ML.2.1 Evaluate the intersections and conflicts between visual and verbal messages, and recognize how visual techniques or design elements carry or influence messages in various media.

11-12.ML.2.2 Analyze the impact of the media on the public, including identifying and analyzing rhetorical and logical fallacies. [7]

ⁱ Adapted from Standards for the English Language. National Council of Teachers of English and International Reading Association, 1996. Available at <http://www.ncte.org/library/NCTEFiles/Resources/Books/Sample/StandardsDoc.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Adapted from Standards for the English Language. National Council of Teachers of English and International Reading Association, 1996. Available at <http://www.ncte.org/library/NCTEFiles/Resources/Books/Sample/StandardsDoc.pdf>.