

## ELA 7 Course Overview

Unit	Major Concepts	Skills	Summative Assessments
Introduction to ELA 7: Reading and Writing	<p>Clear communication can change the world.</p> <p>Reading and writing are sources of pleasure, recreation, self expression, inspiration, as well as academic achievement.</p> <p>Writing is a process that includes planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.</p> <p>Good grammar and mechanics help writers communicate their ideas clearly.</p> <p>Reading great writers can enhance our own writing; we can learn from the writing patterns of authors we enjoy reading.</p>	<p>Read independently in addition to class assigned reading</p> <p>Maintain and analyze reading records on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- volume</li> <li>- frequency</li> <li>- rate</li> </ul> <p>Respond to text through discussion and written retell</p> <p>Discover literal and inferred meaning (connotation and denotation) and the impact of voice</p> <p>Comparing works with different structures but similar themes</p>	<p>Baseline test of reading comprehension (Gates McGinitie)</p> <p>Conclusions drawn from reading conferences and summer reading logs</p> <p>Brief "Best Book of the Summer" report</p>
Grammar and Mechanics (Ongoing through the year)	Clarity is key	<p>Ensure the antecedent of a pronoun is clear</p> <p>Use appropriate verb tense (particularly when shifts are necessary as in literary discussion)</p> <p>Use commas correctly</p> <p>Identify and correct incomplete, fragmented or run-on sentences</p> <p>Use both complex and compound sentences confidently</p> <p>Build paragraphs from more sophisticated sentences</p>	<p>Applications in writing tasks through the year</p> <p>Assessments following skill units (addressing both new and reviewed skills)</p>
Assorted "Free Writing" (Ongoing through the year)	Habitual use of the writing process makes assigned writing tasks easier every time	Use the writing process as appropriate to time allowed: prewriting (ideas, outline), draft, revising, editing, polished draft	<p>WPP Online</p> <p>Selected polished work from Little Red Writing Folder</p>

## ELA 7 Course Overview

	The ability to write a piece within a certain time frame takes practice		
	<b>Theme: The World We Experience</b>		
Reading Short Fiction "Based on a True Story"	<p>Authors can begin with personal experiences to create a fictional narrative.</p> <p>Authors' use of specific vocabulary and language patterns can enhance the distinction among characters.</p> <p>Authors' use of structure can enhance the reader's experience</p> <p>Character, plot, and language shape theme</p>	<p>Identify words significant to plot, character and theme development</p> <p>Identify specific theme</p> <p>Support conclusions about themes with specific text evidence.</p> <p>Identify use of structure (dialogue, sentence length and complexity, paragraph length) to impact meaning, pacing</p> <p>Determine the differences among personal narrative essay, and narrative fiction "based on a true story"</p>	<p>Vocabulary work on character and theme development.</p> <p>Short fiction sight reading</p> <p>Conclusions drawn from conferences and class discussions</p>
Writing Short Narrative "Based on a True Story"	Our own experiences can provide a starting place for creative narrative (fiction or personal essay)	Use characteristics explored in short fiction reading unit in one's own writing	<p>Conclusions drawn from conferences through writing process (selection of central event and characters, story outline, rough drafts)</p> <p>Final draft of story</p>
Novel Study: <i>The Outsiders</i>	<p>While all novels follow a predictable structure and contain common literary elements, many novels emphasize certain elements more than others</p> <p>Character emerges through description (from the narrator, the character, and other characters), dialogue, and actions</p> <p>Theme emerges from character, setting, symbols. and conflict</p>	<p>Read closely for character, theme</p> <p>Read closely for author's use (and purpose) of language and organization</p> <p>Infer character traits and apply specific trait vocabulary in discussion and writing</p> <p>Develop new understandings about text based on patterns identified through close reading</p>	<p>Quizzes on literary terms</p> <p>Reading reflections</p> <p>Memorial for a character (written or graphic)</p> <p>Film scenes comparison to novel</p>

## ELA 7 Course Overview

	Literary terms and specific vocabulary help readers accurately describe and discuss character, theme, structure, and other elements	Use specific textual references to support inferences and theories about meaning	
Literary Analysis Essay	<p>An essay writing prompt still allows for an individual approach as long as evidence is solid</p> <p>The purpose and audience of a piece of writing determines the voice</p>	<p>Use a prompt to develop a thesis</p> <p>Find textual evidence to support a thesis</p> <p>Smoothly incorporate textual evidence into the body of an essay</p> <p>Write with an authoritative voice</p> <p>Use WPP Online to refine</p>	<p>Conclusions drawn from conferences during writing process</p> <p>Final draft of literary analysis paper on <i>The Outsiders</i></p>
	<b>Theme: The World We Discover</b>		
Selection from <i>Maus</i>	<p>The documentation of family and / or community stories is important, and can be achieved in creative ways</p> <p>The graphic novel is a significant and legitimate literary genre</p> <p>All the elements of literature are evident in the illustrations of a piece of graphic literature as well as in the language</p>	<p>Recognize voice in character</p> <p>Recognize symbol and theme in illustration</p> <p>Interview a family or community member (Story Corps)</p>	<p>Conclusions drawn from guided discussions</p> <p>Slideshow presentation of interview</p>
Graphic Lit Book Review (Choice Reading)	The discussion of graphic literature requires attention to all the literary elements in both language and illustrations	Write a book review of the work of graphic literature of student's choice	Final draft of book review
Reading Nonfiction	Informational text, whether prose, video or infographic, must be read with a critical eye to bias	<p>Use specific evidence from text to infer author bias</p> <p>Use specific evidence from text to support own opinion</p> <p>Differentiate between fact and opinion</p>	<p>Conclusions drawn from class discussions</p> <p>Small group debate</p> <p>Socratic seminar</p> <p>Reading quizzes</p>

## ELA 7 Course Overview

Reading as Research (For Research Paper)	<p>Research is required to develop a strong, intelligent argument on a topic</p> <p>Research of the opposing argument strengthens one's own</p>	<p>Keep clear digital notes on research to differentiate sources and facilitate use of information without plagiarizing</p> <p>Evaluate relevance of sources to a question (assigned question)</p>	<p>Digital notes</p> <p>Conclusions drawn from research conferences</p>
Writing a Research Essay (assigned topic: Who should get to vote?)	<p>Well documented, well researched writing is becoming increasingly important in our society</p> <p>Even formal academic research papers can be written to inspire</p> <p>Plagiarism is a serious crime</p>	<p>Develop a thesis based on research</p> <p>Use digital notes from research to compose a formal essay</p> <p>Strategize order of evidence</p> <p>Cite sources in MLA format</p> <p>Maintain a formal voice throughout the paper</p> <p>Use WPP Online to refine</p>	<p>Conclusions drawn from writing conferences</p> <p>Final draft of paper</p>
	<b>Theme: The World We Fear</b>		
Dystopias: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	<p>Dystopian literature points to problems in our existing society</p>	<p>Recognize aspects of fictional societies that parallel in our own</p> <p>Discuss how specific details of setting and imagery inform the theme of the dystopia</p>	<p>Conclusions drawn from class discussions</p> <p>Periodic Reading Quizzes</p> <p>Reading Reflections</p>
Literary Analysis Essay II	<p>The characters, setting and theme of <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> have much to teach us about American culture today.</p>	<p>Develop a thesis from a given prompt</p> <p>Revise with help of WPP Online</p>	<p>Final draft of paper</p>
	<b>Theme: The World of Beauty</b>		
Poetry	<p>Poetry has many forms and is distinct from prose</p> <p>Distinct literary terms support clear discussion of poetry</p>	<p>Recognize details of poems that make them more accessible and / or give them stronger impact</p> <p>Differentiate among a selection of verse forms, rhyme, and metrical schemes</p>	<p>Small group discussion reports</p> <p>Poem reflections</p> <p>Literary term mini quizzes</p>

## ELA 7 Course Overview

Writing about poems	A collection of poems can be gathered for a number of common characteristics (theme, poet, form...)	<p>Select a group of poems with a common characteristic</p> <p>Discuss the “collection” in a brief “introduction” using literary terms</p>	<p>Connection of poems chosen</p> <p>Final draft of paper</p>
Drama: <i>Pygmalion</i>	<p>Drama is a distinct from</p> <p>Plays should be heard and seen, not only read silently</p> <p>Specific literary terms support the discussion of drama</p>	<p>Develop an appreciation for elevated language of the stage</p> <p>Develop an “ear” for characterization through dialogue</p> <p>Recognize social commentary through satire</p> <p>Compare a conventional stage play to its filmed musical counterpart (<i>My Fair Lady</i>)</p>	<p>Conclusions drawn from class discussions</p> <p>Written reflection on film scene comparisons</p> <p>Concepts of beauty collage</p>