

GRADE 7 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Performance Criteria

OVERVIEW

In 7th grade, students read and understand increasingly challenging stories, plays, and poems from across cultures and time periods. They also read and understand literary nonfiction, and informational texts from a variety of subject areas including history/social studies and science. 7th grade students write for a range of reasons: to argue a position, demonstrate understanding of a topic, and share stories and experiences. They also apply their skills to making presentations, giving clear information about an argument or research finding.

READING:

Rich and Challenging Texts

Reading:

Read closely from rich and challenging 7th-grade-level texts, with guidance when text is particularly demanding.

Evidence and Making Inferences

Explain what a story, play, poem, or informational text says, and make inferences (“read between the lines”), citing several pieces of evidence (such as facts, figures, quotes, or other information) from the text.

Identifying the Theme

Identify the theme or main idea in both literary and informational text, and analyze how the theme unfolds. Summarize the text objectively.

Tracing an Argument

Trace an argument and specific claims in a text, and evaluate whether the reasoning is sound and whether there is enough relevant or meaningful evidence to support the claims.

Understanding Vocabulary

Read and understand 7th grade vocabulary, and determine how an author’s word choices affect the meaning and tone of a text; analyze the effect of rhymes and other repeated sounds (such as alliteration) in a poem, story, or play.

Learning New Words and Phrases

Use different strategies to understand new words and phrases; for example, use context as a clue; use common Greek and Latin roots as a clue; consult a dictionary online or in print.

- Examples of common Greek roots: *biblio* (book) as in bibliography; *therm* (heat) as in thermometer.
- Examples of common Latin roots: *aqua* (water), as in aquarium; *cent* (hundred), as in century

Citing Research

Include evidence from text to support thinking and research.

WRITING:

Making Supported Arguments

Write arguments that state a claim, acknowledge alternate or opposing claims, and support the claim with reasons and evidence from accurate and credible sources.

Informative Papers

Write informative or explanatory papers that examine a topic and express ideas by carefully selecting and analyzing information. Use facts, details, and other information to develop the topic.

Creating Narratives

Write stories or narratives about real or imaginary experiences. Establish a context and point of view, and develop story elements such as characters, a well-sequenced plot, and descriptive details.

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Producing and Publishing

Use technology to produce and publish written work, to work on writing with others, and to link to and cite sources.

Using Basic Grammar Rules

Use basic rules of English grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling in written work. (Incorrect: *Walking to school, the bus went by a group of kids.* Correct: *Walking to school, a group of kids saw the bus go by.*)

SPEAKING & LISTENING:

Class Discussions

Participate in class discussions about complex 7th grade topics, texts, and issues. Be prepared to refer to evidence in a text when discussing ideas, and be open to revising a viewpoint in response to new ideas.

Evaluating Others' Arguments

Listen to another speaker's arguments and evaluate whether the claims are based on sound reasoning, and whether there is enough relevant or meaningful evidence to support the claims.

Giving a Presentation

Give a clear, well-organized presentation to construct an argument or explain a research finding. Support ideas with facts, details, and descriptions.

RESEARCH & INQUIRY:

Research Projects

Conduct short research projects to answer a research question, gathering relevant information from print and online sources and generating additional questions for further research.

Locating Information

Locate information efficiently; use effective search terms online.

Evaluating Sources

Evaluate whether sources are accurate and can be trusted. Quote or paraphrase material correctly, without plagiarizing or copying it, and cite sources properly.