

# Tennessee's State English Language Arts Standards

## Grade 7

Adopted by the Tennessee State Board of Education, July 2010



## College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading

The grades 6-12 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

### Key Ideas and Details

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

### Craft and Structure

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

### Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.\*
8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

### Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

\*Please see “Research to Build Knowledge” in Writing and “Comprehension and Collaboration” in Speaking and Listening for additional standards relevant to gathering, assessing, and applying information from print and digital sources.

#### **Note on range and content of student reading**

To become college and career ready, students must grapple with works of exceptional craft and thought whose range extends across genres, cultures, and centuries. Such works offer profound insights into the human condition and serve as models for students’ own thinking and writing. Along with high-quality contemporary works, these texts should be chosen from among seminal U.S. documents, the classics of American literature, and the timeless dramas of Shakespeare. Through wide and deep reading of literature and literary nonfiction of steadily increasing sophistication, students gain a reservoir of literary and cultural knowledge, references, and images; the ability to evaluate intricate arguments; and the capacity to surmount the challenges posed by complex texts.

## Grade 7 Reading Standards for Literature

Strand	Standard
<b>Literature</b>	<p><b>Key Ideas and Details</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.</li> <li>2. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.</li> <li>3. Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Craft and Structure</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.</li> <li>5. Analyze how a drama’s or poem’s form or structure (e.g., soliloquy, sonnet) contributes to its meaning.</li> <li>6. Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Integration of Knowledge and Ideas</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Compare and contrast a written story, drama, or poem to its audio, filmed, staged, or multimedia version, analyzing the effects of techniques unique to each medium (e.g., lighting, sound, color, or camera focus and angles in a film).</li> <li>8. (Not applicable to literature)</li> <li>9. Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.</li> </ol>

## Grade 7 Reading Standards for Informational Text

Strand	Standard
<b>Informational Text</b>	<p><b>Key Ideas and Details</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.</li> <li>2. Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.</li> <li>3. Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Craft and Structure</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 a specific word choice on meaning and tone.</li> <li>5. Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.</li> <li>6. Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Integration of Knowledge and Ideas</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium’s portrayal of the subject (e.g., how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words).</li> <li>8. Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.</li> <li>9. Analyze how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.</li> </ol>

## College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

The grades 6-8 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

### Text Types and Purposes\*

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

### Production and Distribution of Writing

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

### Research to Build and Present Knowledge

7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

### Range of Writing

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 tasks, purposes, and audiences.

\*These broad types of writing include many subgenres. See Appendix A for definitions of key writing types ([http://www.corestandards.org/wp-content/uploads/ELA\\_Standards.pdf](http://www.corestandards.org/wp-content/uploads/ELA_Standards.pdf)).

### **Note on range and content of student writing**

For students, writing is a key means of asserting and defending claims, showing what they know about a subject, and conveying what they have experienced, imagined, thought, and felt. To be college- and career- ready writers, students must take task, purpose, and audience into careful consideration, choosing words, information, structures, and formats deliberately. They need to know how to combine elements of different kinds of writing—for example, to use narrative strategies within argument and explanation within narrative—to produce complex and nuanced writing. They need to be able to use technology strategically when creating, refining, and collaborating on writing. They have to become adept at gathering information, evaluating sources, and citing material accurately, reporting findings from their research and analysis of sources in a clear and cogent manner. They must have the flexibility, concentration, and fluency to produce high-quality first-draft text under a tight deadline as well as the capacity to revisit and make improvements to a piece of writing over multiple drafts when circumstances encourage or require it.

## Grade 7 Writing Standards

Standard	
<b>Text Types and Purposes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Introduce claim(s), acknowledge alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.</li><li>b. Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.</li><li>c. Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence.</li><li>d. Establish and maintain a formal style.</li><li>e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.</li></ol></li><li>2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. 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.</li><li>b. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.</li><li>c. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.</li><li>d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.</li><li>e. Establish and maintain a formal style.</li><li>f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.</li></ol></li><li>3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structures event sequences.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. 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.</li><li>b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.</li><li>c. Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.</li><li>d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action</li></ol></li></ol>

- and convey experiences and events.
- e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.

**Production and Distribution of Writing**

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.)
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 7 on page 53.)
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and link to and cite sources as well as to interact and collaborate with others, including linking to and citing sources.

**Research to Build and Present Knowledge**

7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.
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.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
  - a. Apply *grade 7 Reading standards* to literature (e.g., “Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history”).
  - b. Apply *grade 7 Reading standards* to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims”).

**Range of Writing**

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.

## College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening

The grades 6-12 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

### Comprehension and Collaboration

1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

### Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.
6. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

### **Note on range and content of student speaking and listening**

To become college and career ready, students must have ample opportunities to take part in a variety of rich, structured conversations—as part of a whole class, in small groups, and with a partner – build around important content in various domains. They must be able to contribute appropriately to these conversations, to make comparisons and contrasts, and to analyze and synthesize a multitude of ideas in accordance with the standards of evidence appropriate to a particular discipline. Whatever their intended major or profession, high school graduates will depend heavily on their ability to listen attentively to others so that they are able to build on others' meritorious ideas while expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

New technologies have broadened and expanded the role that speaking and listening play in acquiring and sharing knowledge and have tightened their link to other forms of communication. The Internet has accelerated the speed at which connections between speaking, listening, reading, and writing can be made, requiring that students be ready to use these modalities nearly simultaneously. Technology itself is changing quickly, creating a new urgency for students to be adaptable in response to change.

## Grade 7 Speaking and Listening Standards

Standard	
<b>Comprehension and Collaboration</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on <i>grade 7 topics, texts, and issues</i>, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. 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.</li><li>b. Follow rules for collegial discussions, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.</li><li>c. Pose questions that elicit elaboration and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant observations and ideas that bring the discussion back on topic as needed.</li><li>d. Acknowledge new information expressed by others and, when warranted, modify their own views.</li></ol></li><li>2. Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how the ideas clarify a topic, text, or issue under study.</li><li>3. Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.</li></ol>
<b>Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with pertinent descriptions, facts, details, and examples; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.</li><li>5. Include multimedia components and visual displays in presentations to clarify claims and findings and emphasize salient points.</li><li>6. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (See grade 7 Language standards 1 and 3 on page 53 for specific expectations.)</li></ol>

## College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Language

The grades 6-12 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

### Conventions of Standard English

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

### Knowledge of Language

3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

### Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.
5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
6. Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

### **Note on range and content of student language use**

To be college and career ready in language, students must have firm control over the conventions of standard English. At the same time, they must come to appreciate that language is as at least as much a matter of craft as of rules and be able to choose words, syntax, and punctuation to express themselves and achieve particular functions and rhetorical effects. They must also have extensive vocabularies, built through reading

and study, enabling them to comprehend complex texts and engage in purposeful writing about and conversations around content. They need to become skilled in determining or clarifying the meaning of words and phrases they encounter, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies to aid them. They must learn to see an individual word as part of a network of other words—words, for example, that have similar denotations but different connotations. The inclusion of Language standards in their own strand should not be taken as an indication that skills related to conventions, effective language use, and vocabulary are unimportant to reading, writing, speaking, and listening; indeed, they are inseparable from such contexts.

## Grade 7 Language Standards

Standard	
<b>Conventions of Standard English</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences.</li><li>b. Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.</li><li>c. Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers.*</li></ol></li><li>2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Use a comma to separate coordinate adjectives (e.g., <i>It was a fascinating, enjoyable movie</i> but not <i>He wore an old [,] green shirt</i>).</li><li>b. Spell correctly.</li></ol></li></ol>
<b>Knowledge of Language</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.*</li></ol></li></ol>
<b>Vocabulary Acquisition and Use</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based <i>on grade 7 reading and content</i>, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. 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.</li><li>b. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., <i>belligerent, bellicose, rebel</i>).</li><li>c. 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 its part of speech.</li><li>d. 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).</li></ol></li><li>5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., literary, biblical, and mythological allusions) in context.</li></ol></li></ol>

- b. Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonym/antonym, analogy) to better understand each of the words.
  - c. Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., *refined, respectful, polite, diplomatic, condescending*).
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.

\*This skill is likely to require continued attention in higher grades as it is applied to increasingly sophisticated writing and speaking.