

Language Arts

Grade: Eight

Topic: Word Learning

1. Spell correctly in all subject areas.
2. Develop subject-related vocabulary.
3. Continue to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words using context clues and structural analysis.

Topic: Reading Comprehension

1. Analyze various genres and purposes such as narrative essays and diaries.
2. Make connections across texts.
3. Infer meaning, speculate and interpret from a variety of reading selections.
4. Create writings, illustrations, and/or presentations to demonstrate understanding of text.

Topic: Literature

1. Analyze various genres and purposes such as narrative essays and diaries.
2. Relate the relevance of the literary experience to personal experience.
3. Identify and interpret different forms of poetry (epic, elegy, etc.).
4. Recognize stanza format, rhyme schemes, and meter in order to enhance understanding of poetry.
5. Analyze author's position and critique ideas.

Topic: Language Mechanics

1. Formulate and differentiate among adjectival, adverbial, and noun clauses.
2. Recognize infinitives, participles, and gerunds.
3. Identify and use mood of verbs and verbals.
4. Analyze language structure through sentence diagrams.
5. Restructure poorly constructed sentences.
6. Use direct and indirect quotation marks in addition to previously learned punctuation.
7. Recall and use spelling rules correctly.
8. Write in cursive using correct letter formation and word spacing.

Topic: The Writing Process

1. Compose persuasive essays of 200-500 words using the following elements: 1) examples; 2) reasons; 3) comparisons and contrasts; 4) cause and effect; and 5) explanations.
2. Practice creative writing to convey mood and tone, and that uses figurative language.
3. Recognize and employ the elements of protagonist, antagonist, conflict, and resolution.
4. Explore and compose different forms of poetry i.e. haiku, tanka, cinquain, free verse, and rhyme.
5. Consult a thesaurus to make alternate word choices to enhance writing.
6. Write a report with quotations, simple footnotes and a bibliography.

Topic: Oral Communication

1. Interpret information from lectures, presentations, dialogues, and audiovisual sources.
2. Deliver effective persuasive, expository, instructional and descriptive oral presentations employing supportive facial gestures and voice inflection.
3. Rehearse and present class dramatization.
4. Engage in a debate using reasoned arguments.
5. Speak extemporaneously and appropriately on grade level topics.

Topic: Study/Research Skills

1. Research topics using the Internet and print resources.
2. Organize and assimilate information from note taking and outlines.
3. State a thesis and clearly and concisely provide supporting details and conclusion.
4. Use a consistent format for footnotes.
5. Cite resources in an appropriately formatted bibliography.