Language Arts 7 Essential Learnings (2016-17)

Unit	Students will understand that…	Students will know…	Students will be able to…
Argument Essay	• Writers use and explain evidence to support an arguable claim. • Anticipating and addressing counterarguments establishes credibility.	• Argument • Claim/thesis • Evidence • Reasoning • Counterarguments • Credibility	Write an argument essay that.. • Focuses on supporting a single arguable thesis. • Has an introduction that grabs the reader's attention and communicates the claim, while the conclusion leaves the reader with a lasting impression on the subject. • Is organized with a logical progression of smooth transitions between ideas. • Is supported with logical reasoning and properly cited evidence when appropriate. • Anticipates counterarguments.
Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics	• Following the rules of academic English grammar and usage improves credibility and clarity. • Grammatical rules vary among vernaculars. • Writers select an audience-appropriate set of grammatical rules to convey their message.	• Homophones • Run-on sentences • Comma splices • Capitalize "I" and proper nouns • Clauses • Commas and coordinating conjunctions • Commas with introductory phrases	• Use resources to check spelling. • Use commas for a variety of purposes. • Appropriately capitalizing "I" and proper nouns. • Correct comma splices and run-on sentences.
Personal Belief Essay	• Authors write about universal truths through experience in order to help the audience relate to their stories and find connections across culture, time, and space. • Exploring and defining your own belief system is ongoing.	• Personal belief essay focuses on one core belief throughout the essay. • Personal belief essay blends storytelling as well the formal, evaluative language of exposition. • Transition signal words and techniques.	Write a personal belief essay that… • Uses details to *show* rather than *tell* what the core belief is and how it came about. • Has smooth and varied transitions. • Establishes an appropriate voice, focused on supporting the writer's belief, rather than attacking the beliefs of others.

Personal Narrative	• Writers write about their own lives to communicate personal experiences and find meaning in their experiences. • Narrative writing has a structure and form meant to engage readers. • Narrative requires specific sensory detail and description. • Narratives often include dialogue to create dramatic writing.	• Personal Narrative • Dialogue (mechanics) • Elements of plot • Characterization • First person point-of-view	Write a personal narrative that… • Features a specific moment (key scene) from your life. • Has a story arc that uses all of the elements of plot. • Uses "showing" description (dialogue, detail, thoughts, actions), rather than "telling" descriptions. • Adds characterization to their writing. • Shows how the experience changed them.
Poetry	• Writers study poetry to better appreciate the artistry of words and the play and flexibility of language. • The rules of poetry can be flexible, but there are rules. • There are different poetry forms with different sets of rules.	• Theme • Stanza • Line breaks • Comparisons: simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification • Rhythm patterns • Onomatopoeia • Alliteration • Speaker	• Analyze a poem for its rules (patterns) and its theme or message. • Write a poem that follows a set of rules (pattern).
Public Speaking	• Speakers vary their physical and vocal performance based on their audience. • Speakers change their writing to make it easy to present their ideas without reading word for word.	• Stage presence or framing • Physical cues • Facial cues • Vocal cues	• Mark up the text they will present in anticipation of their speech. • Speak using appropriate physical, facial, and vocal cues, as well as stage presence or framing.
Research	• Writers use research to evaluate ideas, formulate defensible claims, gather evidence for their claims, learn something new, or to come to an understanding. • Writers give credit to their sources. • Sources have various levels of credibility. • Writers paraphrase information from their sources to avoid plagiarism and to demonstrate their understanding of the text.	• MLA style works-cited page • Paraphrasing • Plagiarism • Key-word search	• Find credible sources. • Search keywords • Revise searches as necessary. • Cite sources on a works-cited page. • Paraphrase research in their own words. • Put research from multiple sources together. • Take and organize necessary notes.

Writing Process	• Writers will reread and share their work before publishing to revise for clarity. • Prewriting prepares you for successful writing. • Writers must know their audience and prewrite to find the hook to engage their audience. • Writers vary their voice to fit their audience and purpose. • Writers change the form of their writing to fit their purpose and audience. • Writers work hard to develop their skills over time. • Writers use technology to make the process easier.	• Revision • Constructive criticism • Various forms of prewriting • Voice	• Respond to the writing of other students with praise, questions, and constructive criticism. • Revise their work to improve its content, organization, and style. • Choose from students' responses to revise their writing.