

English Language Arts: Criteria for Excellence

Reading Skills

- Identify the purpose of a text (entertain, inform, persuade, etc..)
- Distinguish between fact and opinion
- Pose both text-based questions and questions to evoke higher-level thinking
- Draw connections between ideas within a text and to other texts
- Independently apply a variety of comprehension strategies (predicting, summarizing, paraphrasing, visualizing, retelling, etc..)
- Make inferences into overtones of text
- Support interpretations with evidence
- Engage in thoughtful discussion about readings with peers
- Consider an idea, event, or problem from multiple perspectives
- Use literature to develop an understanding of social issues and gain insights into human experiences
- Identify words and meanings

Writing Skills

- Use the writing process (brainstorm, draft, revise, and publish) to develop, clarify and communicate ideas accurately
- Use precise language to express individual perspectives and ideas drawn from personal experience
 - Persuasive: develop the foundations for constructing an argument
 - Expository (inform): explain, inform, analyze, evaluate interpret
 - Narrative: respond to literary genres to interpret and evaluate
- Create texts and media for different audiences:
 - Experiment with different points of view
 - Different voices
 - Different styles (formal and informal)
- Show mastery of standard grammar, sentence writing, and punctuation

Speaking Skills

- Engage in both formal and informal public speaking opportunity
- Communicate ideas with clarity

-Share and support opinions in class discussions

Research Skills

- Utilize text to find information. supporting evidence and relevant quotes
- Find appropriate sources of information
- Evaluate credibility and applicability of resources
- Identify keywords to foster research
- Use a variety of resources to select an appropriate text for a specific purpose
- Effectively use dictionaries, thesauri, and other supporting texts
- Use index, table of contents, footnotes, forwards, author's notes, images, cover and book flap information to focus search or aid in understanding
- Paraphrases information effectively