

9th Grade American Online School

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM

Fostering Language Mastery, Literary Insight, and Expressive Power

Version Apr/2025

1. Introduction

The Role of English Language Arts Education in 9th Grade

The 9th Grade English Language Arts curriculum builds the essential foundations for advanced literacy, critical analysis, and communication. Through engagement with a diverse range of texts and genres—from classic literature to multimedia and personal narratives—students sharpen their interpretive skills and learn to express themselves through academic and creative writing. Emphasis is placed on developing clarity of thought, cultural understanding, and reflective voice through both written and oral expression.

By the end of this course, students will:

- ✓ Analyze texts for literary themes, structure, and rhetorical devices.
- ✓ Compose narrative, persuasive, and expository essays with clarity and structure.
- ✓ Expand vocabulary and apply grammar conventions accurately in writing and speech.
- ✓ Participate in structured discussions and deliver impactful oral presentations.
- ✓ Develop interpretive thinking and respond meaningfully to literature and media.

2. Core Competence Areas

ELA.1 Reading Comprehension and Literary Analysis

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Interpret literary texts with attention to theme, character, and structure.
- ✓ Identify and explain literary devices and their effects.
- ✓ Compare genres and cultural contexts in fiction and nonfiction.

Competencies

ELA.1.A.1 – Understanding Literary Elements.

- Identify themes and analyze how literary devices such as imagery, symbolism, and irony create meaning.

ELA.1.A.2 – Analyzing Narrative Structure.

- Describe how character development and plot structure influence message and reader experience.

ELA.1.A.3 – Comparing Literary Forms and Genres.

- Interpret differences and similarities across short stories, novels, poetry, and drama.

ELA.1.A.4 – Using Evidence to Support Interpretation.

- Support analysis with relevant textual evidence, cited using MLA format.

ELA.2 Writing: Academic, Argumentative, and Creative

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Plan and write structured essays and narratives.
- ✓ Develop logical arguments and engage with counterclaims.
- ✓ Express ideas creatively using literary devices and personal voice.

Competencies

ELA.2.A.1 – Writing Coherent Essays.

- Construct multi-paragraph essays with thesis statements, transitions, and conclusion strategies.

ELA.2.A.2 – Structuring Argumentative Writing.

- Develop claims with supporting evidence and address opposing viewpoints.

ELA.2.A.3 – Writing Narratives and Creative Pieces.

- Use dialogue, pacing, and description to engage readers in original stories.

ELA.2.A.4 – Applying the Writing Process.

- Use drafting, peer feedback, revision, and editing to improve writing quality.

ELA.2.A.5 – Enhancing Style and Clarity.

- Employ rhetorical devices, varied sentence structures, and domain-specific vocabulary effectively.

ELA.3 Grammar, Syntax, and Vocabulary

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Use grammar and punctuation rules consistently.
- ✓ Construct clear, complex sentences.
- ✓ Expand vocabulary through contextual strategies and morphology.

Competencies

ELA.3.A.1 – Mastering Grammar Usage.

- Identify and correct issues with agreement, consistency, and punctuation.

ELA.3.A.2 – Building Sentence Fluency.

- Use compound-complex structures and modifiers to enhance meaning.

ELA.3.A.3 – Acquiring Academic Vocabulary.

- Learn and apply vocabulary through reading, discussion, and word study.

ELA.3.A.4 – Editing for Clarity and Style.

- Revise written work for tone, grammar, and stylistic precision.
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ELA.4 Speaking, Listening, and Media Literacy

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Engage in academic discourse with clarity and respect.
- ✓ Deliver formal presentations with structure and confidence.
- ✓ Analyze and interpret media and spoken communication.

Competencies

ELA.4.A.1 – Participating in Discussions.

- Contribute to conversations by building on ideas, asking questions, and citing sources.

ELA.4.A.2 – Presenting Orally with Purpose.

- Organize and deliver presentations using voice modulation, eye contact, and visual support..

ELA.4.A.3 – Interpreting Spoken and Digital Media.

- Evaluate media for bias, perspective, and persuasive technique.

ELA.4.A.4 – Collaborating in Group Projects.

- Work cooperatively to achieve group goals and reflect on contributions.
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ELA.5 Critical Thinking and Interpretation

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Examine author perspective, tone, and intent.**
- ✓ **Compare themes and techniques across texts and cultures.**
- ✓ **Evaluate arguments in nonfiction and media texts.**
- ✓ **Reflect personally and critically on texts and their broader meaning.**

Competencies

ELA.5.A.1 – Analyzing Author’s Purpose.

- Interpret bias, tone, and stance in both fiction and nonfiction.

ELA.5.A.2 – Comparing Texts Across Cultures and Time Periods.

- Draw connections between diverse works through theme, structure, and context.

ELA.5.A.3 – Evaluating Reasoning and Evidence.

- Distinguish between logical arguments and flawed reasoning.

ELA.5.A.4 – Reflecting with Insight.

- Express personal responses and connect themes to real-world experiences.

3. Assessment and Evaluation

Formative Assessments – Checking Progress Through Interactive Learning

- ✓ **Reading journals and comprehension check-ins.**
- ✓ **Vocabulary and grammar exercises.**
- ✓ **Peer editing and draft reviews.**
- ✓ **Discussion and speaking practice rubrics.**

Summative Assessments – Final Projects and Exams

- ✓ Literary analysis essays and multi-genre writing pieces.
- ✓ Final book projects and oral presentations.
- ✓ Comparative text responses and argument evaluations.

Authentic Assessment – Real-World Applications

- ✓ Digital storytelling, multimedia reflections, and podcast critiques.
 - ✓ Poetry slams or debate participation.
 - ✓ Group projects and annotated portfolios.
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4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

Inquiry-Based and Thematic Learning

- ✓ Center units on core themes like identity, justice, or resilience.
- ✓ Use essential questions and guided discovery.

Workshop-Based Instruction

- ✓ Integrate mini-lessons, independent practice, conferencing, and peer collaboration.
- ✓ Employ scaffolded models and graphic organizers.

Technology-Integrated Learning

- ✓ Use Google Docs, Flipgrid, and Padlet for collaborative and multimodal expression.
- ✓ Annotate digital texts using tools like Hypothes.is.

Inclusive and Responsive Learning Environment

- ✓ Foster respectful dialogue and support linguistic diversity.
- ✓ Encourage creativity, curiosity, and student voice.