

Common Core State Standards for Writing

- 8.W.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
 - Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
 - Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
 - Establish and maintain a formal style.
 - Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
- 8.W.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
 - Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
 - Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
 - Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
 - Establish and maintain a formal style.
 - Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
- 8.W.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
- 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.
 - Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
 - Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another, and show the relationships among experiences and events.
 - Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.
 - Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.

- 8.W.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 standard 1-3 above.)
- 8.W.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.
- 8.W.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new”).
 - Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced”).

Common Core State Standards for Language

- 8.L.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences.
 - Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice.
 - Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood.
 - Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.
- 8.L.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break.
 - Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission.
 - Spell correctly.
- 8.L.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
- 8.L.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.