ELA Grades 9 – 12 Guidelines

ITEM	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12	
Writing					
Narrative Number of pages refers to typed work for revised and edited pieces Students should also write draft-only pieces to practice these skills	 2+ pages focus on pacing action, engaging plot, range of strategies and devices with figurative language and specific narration organized, well-developed structure 	 3+ pages mastery of organization, pacing, character, plot focus on style and tone 	 3+ pages should already have mastered organization, pacing, character, plot focus on style and tone 	 4+ pages should already have mastered organization, pacing, character, plot focus on style and tone (Narratives not a major focus at Grade 12) 	
Persuasive Number of pages refers to typed work for revised and edited pieces Students should also write draft-only pieces to practice these skills	 2+ pages full composition focus on logic and reasoning establish and develop controlling idea support arguments with detailed text exclude irrelevant information cite sources in MLA format 	 3+ pages focus on logic and reasoning introduce fallacious reasoning using in-text citations 	 3+ pages fully support thesis avoid fallacious reasoning specific use of supporting arguments in-text citations 	 4+ pages focus on solid logic and reasoning extensive support of controlling ideas specific use of supporting arguments from resources in-text citations (MLA) 	
Response to Literature	 at least one per quarter in response to literary text 1-2 pages insightful interpretation several clear ideas, premises, or images 	 at least one per quarter in response to literary text 1 page analysis supported 	 at least two per quarter in response to literary text 1 page 	 at least two per quarter in response to literary text 2 pages 	

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	support judgments with specific references to original text, other texts, author, prior knowledge	by textual references support judgments with specific references to original text, other texts, author, prior knowledge	 analysis supported by textual references support judgments with specific references to original text, other texts, author, prior knowledge 	 insightful interpretations and analysis, including use of literary devices analysis with textual references support judgments with specific references to original text, other texts, author, prior knowledge
Informational Writing Process, cause-effect, comparison-contrast These are writings in addition to a research report Do not have to be taken to final draft stage	 at least 1 per quarter 2-3 pages relevant questions to engage reader clear, accurate perspective on subject organizing structure appropriate to purpose, audience, context support main ideas with facts cite sources as appropriate 	 at least 1 per quarter 2-3 pages relevant questions to engage reader clear, accurate perspective on subject organizing structure appropriate to purpose, audience, context support main ideas with facts cite sources as appropriate 	 at least 1 per quarter 2-3 pages relevant questions to engage reader clear, accurate perspective on subject organizing structure appropriate to purpose, audience, context support main ideas with facts cite sources 	 includes all competencies from lower grades clear and effective style

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Research Note: A formal research paper is completed in addition to shorter informational writings Students must write one each year Ideally, other content areas assign additional research work to help students apply the skills they learned in Language Arts	 2-3 pages Focus: using and citing sources to support ideas narrow or extend focus during investigation at least 3 sources (inc. electronic) analyze sources' validity organize information with appropriate sources to support central ideas, concepts and themes in-text citations use MLA format 1 in-text cite-source 	 3-4 pages Focus: using and citing sources to support ideas narrow or extend focus during investigation at least 3 sources (inc. electronic) analyze sources' validity organize information with appropriate sources to support central ideas, concepts and themes minimum 3 sources 1 in-text cite/source use MLA format 	 5-6 pages Focus: using and citing sources to support ideas narrow or extend focus during investigation at least 3 sources (inc. electronic) analyze sources' validity organize information with appropriate sources to support central ideas, concepts and themes minimum 4 sources with 1 intext cite/source use MLA format 	 7 – 12 pages includes all competencies from lower grades annotated bibliography and Works Cited page minimum 5 sources, including one cite per source
Style Guides	Full MLA http://owl.english.purdue.e	Full MLA formatExposure to APA format		
Thesis statements What the writer is proving or supporting	 Use term "thesis" Placement: last sentence of the first paragraph Three listings acceptable 	 Placement: last sentence of the first paragraph Demonstrates attitude, no three listings 	 Placement: last sentence of the first paragraph Demonstrates attitude, no three listings Clear, concise, 	 Placed in last sentence of first paragraph (not necessarily required) Stated in third person

 Provides direction, structure and focus Is a specific sentence in the first paragraph 			arguable, and defensible	•	Clear, concise, arguable, and defensible
Paraphrasing and Plagiarism In addition to instruction provided by the librarian	Properly cite paraphrases in MLA format	Properly cite paraphrases in MLA format	Properly cite paraphrases in MLA format	•	Should know paraphrasing from grade 11 Librarian assists with instruction Done in MLA style

Spelling

- The students' application of spelling strategies is seen in the context of writing, and only when final editing has been completed
- When words are assigned, use a pre-test to excuse students who already know the words
- Cannot count for more than 5% of total language arts grade
- Encourage students to use Spell Check on the computer when preparing final drafts

Forms of Discourse

- Teach separation of informal/casual register used outside of school and among friends, compare to formal register (the language of power)
- Teach students to focus on the audience when writing

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ITEM	SPED	GRADE 9	GRA	DE 10	GRA	DE 11	GF	RADE 12
Reading								
Informational and Persuasive Text	 Real World informational text. Research for letter writing, PowerPoint presentation. Small paper based o grade level expectations. 	• Current Event articles (Students summarize, paraphrase, Main Idea, Supporting points.)	(Students	ent articles summarize, se, Main Idea, g points.)	projects) • Early Amer	ently read. (pick ican Literature onal accounts, m White	(Student on what Censorsh debates, Point of V	n Summer reading s write and essay they read) ip articles, research. View write a section on e they've read.
Fictional Text		 Romeo & Juliet Anthology excerpts 1 independen t book per quarter 	College Prep Outsider S Night Of Mice & Men Finding Forrest er	ACCELERATED Bless the Beasts & the Children Outsiders Night Of Mice & Men Finding Forrester The Taming of the Shrew	College Prep Huck Finn To Kill A Mocking bird Fallen Angels Summer (400 pages of indepen dent reading)	• To Kill A Mocking bird • Literature Circles (The Help, The Shack, God of the Animals, Mystic & Riders, The Last Lecture) • Summer Reading (Uglies, Farenheit 451)	College Prep Theme Glass Menage rie, Chocola te War	 ACCELERATED Frankenstein Death of a Salesman Oedipus the King Macbeth Anthology Excerpts Summer (read 2/10- one NF and one F), Kite Runner, Catcher in the Rye, The Great Gatsby, East of Eden; Nonfiction summer (3 Cups of Tea,

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				 Poetry 400 pages of independ ent reading 	Fast Food Nation, Nickel and Dimed) • Poetry	
Vocabulary How taught How graded Materials used	 Words students need to know, commonly misspelled, reading book words. Real life applied words Used in spelling tests, locate definition, create sentences) 	 Frontload vocabulary prior to Reading stories Define Sentences Activities Posters, flow chart. 	 Frontload vocabulary prior to Reading stories and novels Define Sentences Activities Posters, flow chart. 	 Weekly list of 5 Commonly used words on the ACT Define, 9 week cumulative test, extra credit for classroom words found in outside sources. 	 Reading book words SAT list Articles Weekly context clues and quizzes. Base words. 	