

Curriculum Survey of Essential Skills National Rank Order

English Language Arts

International Center for Leadership in Education (January 12, 2000) English Language Arts Topic Statements	National Ranking	Priority		
		High	Medium	Low
		1-35	36-70	71-101
Apply in writing the rules and conventions of grammar, usage, punctuation, paragraphing and spelling.	1	X		
Give oral or written directions that are clear and are understood by another person.	2	X		
Gather information from a variety of sources, including electronic sources, and summarize, analyze, and evaluate its use for a report.	3	X		
Follow oral or written directions.	4	X		
Identify, collect and/or select pertinent information while reading.	5	X		
Follow written directions carefully and accurately.	6	X		
Understand rules of grammar, usage, punctuation, paragraphing and spelling.	7	X		
Develop processes for understanding and remembering information.	8	X		
Know how to decipher unfamiliar words using such strategies as context cues, word structure analysis, letter-sound relationships, and word histories.	9	X		
Prepare and deliver individual speeches by gathering information, rehearsing, making eye contact, speaking loudly enough, delivering information in a well-organized fashion, and appealing to the needs of the target audience.	10	X		
Present information in well-organized fashion that will be clear to the target audience.	11	X		
Draft a report that engages an audience and is concise, clear, well-organized, accurate, and informative.	12	X		
Apply rules of appropriate diction, grammar, and usage in formal speaking situations.	13	X		
Use editing and revising skills to improve effectiveness and accuracy of drafts.	14	X		
Discriminate important ideas from unimportant ideas while reading.	15	X		
Express opinions clearly and forcefully without interrupting or insulting others.	16	X		
Analyze, evaluate and critique such events as current events, political campaigns, advertisements and media.	17	X		
Assess the validity and accuracy of an informational selection.	18	X		
Use brainstorming, role playing, and standard problem solving strategies to define a problem and suggest solutions.	19	X		
Participate, sometimes leading, in group meetings by contributing, taking turns speaking, and working toward a common goal.	20	X		
Use dictionary, grammar books, and thesaurus to aid in editing and understanding words.	21	X		
Understand and produce a variety of informative formats such as business letters, memos, reports, news articles, brochures, proposals and critiques.	22	X		
Understand the personal, social, cultural and historical significance of a text.	23	X		
Summarize, synthesize and organize information while reading.	24	X		

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Listen, comprehend and summarize essential information from a variety of sources such as speeches, plays, commercials on radio and television, and political debates.	25	X		
Apply reading skills while reading textbooks in courses other than English.	26	X		
Define a position on a controversial topic and write a persuasive essay or make an oral presentation likely to persuade a specific audience to change an opinion or take a particular action.	27	X		
Know how to find and read information from a variety of electronic sources.	28	X		
Understand and use graphs, charts, and visuals to enhance informational writing and oral presentations.	29	X		
Understand the nature and purpose of and be able to word process a variety of formats including essays, business letters, memos, instructions, policy statements, technical proposals, user manuals, lab reports, etc.	30	X		
Use writing as a way of expressing personal creativity.	31	X		
Make informed judgments about the content, organization, and delivery of spoken communication.	32	X		
Understand the importance of accuracy in final drafts.	33	X		
Use ideas from journals, class discussion and literary criticism to write a paper that expresses a personal opinion, sustains a controlling idea, or uses specific evidence from literary texts to support an opinion.	34	X		
Apply the information gathered from technical texts in real-life situations.	35	X		
Write a report on a topic that uses several sources of information and correctly document those sources.	36a		X	
Make informed judgments about topics under discussion such as current events, literature, movies, or plays.	36b		X	
Synthesize and evaluate ideas from several selections on similar topics.	38		X	
Use writing as a strategy for comparing, contrasting, and synthesizing ideas, concepts and generalizations from a variety of literary sources.	39		X	
Use writing as a tool for learning in formats such as learning logs, laboratory reports, note-taking, journals and portfolios.	40		X	
Edit and revise first drafts.	41		X	
Proofread and correct first drafts.	42		X	
Use a variety of media to gather information and to transmit information to specific audiences.	43		X	
Compare/contrast a reading selection with others.	44		X	
Edit and revise written text so that it is 100% accurate.	45		X	
Apply, extend, and expand on information while reading.	46		X	
Listen for enjoyment to narratives of personal experiences, stories, drama, performances, lectures, and readings.	47		X	
Ask questions of others that encourage them to participate, elaborate, and contribute to understanding topics under discussion.	48		X	
Read for main idea first and then read for detail.	49		X	
Understand and use a variety of organizational formats such as compare/contrast,	50		X	

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cause/effect, inductive/deductive, most important to least important, and least important to most important.				
Gather information such as data, facts, ideas, concepts, and generalizations from oral sources.	51		X	
Preview textbooks for informational text to anticipate content.	52		X	
Apply personal or objective criteria for evaluating informational, persuasive and literary materials.	53		X	
Organize supporting detail in logical and convincing patterns.	54		X	
Write a speech to amuse, to inform, or persuade a specific audience.	55		X	
Understand and use graphics such as graphs, charts, visual aids, white space, bold print, headers and other graphics to enhance meaning.	56		X	
Understand and relate to situations, events and characters in a reading selection.	57		X	
Use expository writing skills in subjects other than English language arts.	58		X	
Respond orally to fellow student's opinions during presentations by asking questions, asking for clarification, agreeing and/or disagreeing courteously.	59		X	
Relate situations, events, and characters in a reading selection to personal experience.	60		X	
Understand that diction is different in formal and informal speaking situations.	61		X	
Understand the needs of a specific audience and write and speak in ways that address these needs.	62		X	
Interpret non-verbal cues such as body language and visual aids.	63		X	
Understand the effect of sounds, words, imagery, repetition, rhyme, and rhythm patterns in language.	64		X	
Understand that technical texts require precise understanding rather than interpretation.	65		X	
Demonstrate knowledge of persuasive techniques used in visual advertisements.	66		X	
Demonstrate ability to select appropriate media for presenting information to others.	67		X	
Apply an understanding of the meaning of graphics, layout, white space, italics, parentheses, and other visual aids.	68		X	
Participate in a one-on-one conference by relating essential information, asking questions on the topic, and using language to clarify information.	69		X	
Analyze and evaluate a speaker's statements of opinion, personal preference and values.	70		X	
Understand the nature of informational and/or technical texts.	71			X
Evaluate the way an author uses language and text characteristics such as plot, setting, theme, character, point of view, genre etc. to evoke a response in a reader.	72			X
Retell in writing a real-life experience in sequential order.	73			X
Explain orally a complex process or concept to a younger person.	74			X
Participate in formal and informal book talks with teachers, fellow students and other groups.	75			X
Analyze and evaluate ideas and information transmitted by non-print media and visual aids.	76			X

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Assess the significance and importance of the themes in a literary text.	77			X
Investigate a current event or community issue and write an investigative report.	78			X
Interpret in writing a literary work's meaning and significance.	79			X
Understand ways an author uses language and text characteristics to aid comprehension.	80			X
Write a critique or review of a movie, play, book, or restaurant.	81			X
Follow the logic of the organization of a technical text.	82			X
Evaluate the quality of a selection.	83			X
Tell or re-tell stories, folk tales, or narratives for a listening audience.	84			X
Interview a classmate, neighbor, or public figure and write a character sketch.	85			X
Interpret texts by reading orally with appropriate expression.	86			X
Participate in peer editing groups.	87			X
Write an autobiographical sketch.	88			X
Identify and interpret levels of language, idiomatic expressions, and figures of speech that enhance oral communication.	89			X
Support opinions of non-literary events and texts with sufficient supporting detail.	90			X
Evaluate personal viewing habits.	91			X
Identify and interpret vocal characteristics that influence meaning such as tone, volume, pitch, and rate.	92			X
Engage a reader's interest in an analytical or interpretive piece of writing.	93			X
Use response journals to jot down ideas from reading literary texts.	94			X
Analyze and evaluate a speaker's persuasive techniques.	95			X
Anticipate and address a potential audience's problems and misunderstandings.	96			X
Compare/contrast one literary genre with another such as the reading of a Shakespearean or other play with a live or filmed performance.	97			X
Assess several works by the same author.	98			X
Understand and apply film and dramatic terms and techniques to an analysis and evaluation of films and plays.	99			X
Evaluate societal viewing habits.	100			X
Listen for language cues that demonstrate a speaker's patterns of organization in formal presentations.	101			X