

Listening and Speaking

1.0 Listening and Speaking Strategies

Students formulate adroit judgments about oral communication. They deliver focused and coherent presentations that convey clear and distinct perspectives and demonstrate solid reasoning. They use gestures, tone, and vocabulary tailored to the audience and purpose.

Comprehension

- 1.1 Recognize strategies used by the media to inform, persuade, entertain, and transmit culture (e.g., advertisements; perpetuation of stereotypes; use of visual representations, special effects, language).
- 1.2 Analyze the impact of the media on the democratic process (e.g., exerting influence on elections, creating images of leaders, shaping attitudes) at the local, state, and national levels.

Organization and Delivery of Oral Communication

- 1.4 Use rhetorical questions, parallel structure, concrete images, figurative language, characterization, irony, and dialogue to achieve clarity, force, and aesthetic effect.
- 1.5 Distinguish between and use various forms of classical and contemporary logical arguments, including:
 - a. Inductive and deductive reasoning
 - b. Syllogisms and analogies

Analysis and Evaluation of Oral and Media Communications

- 1.11 Critique a speaker's diction and syntax in relation to the purpose of an oral communication and the impact the words may have on the audience.
- 1.12 Identify logical fallacies used in oral addresses (e.g., attack *ad hominem*, false causality, red herring, overgeneralization, bandwagon effect).

2.0 Speaking Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Students deliver polished formal and extemporaneous presentations that combine traditional rhetorical strategies of narration, exposition, persuasion, and description. Student speaking demonstrates a command of standard American English and the organizational and delivery strategies outlined in Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0.

Using the speaking strategies of grades eleven and twelve outlined in Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0, students:

- 2.1 Deliver reflective presentations:
 - a. Explore the significance of personal experiences, events, conditions, or concerns, using appropriate rhetorical strategies (e.g., narration, description, exposition, persuasion).
 - b. Draw comparisons between the specific incident and broader themes that illustrate the speaker's beliefs or generalizations about life.
- 2.2 Deliver oral reports on historical investigations:
 - a. Use exposition, narration, description, persuasion, or some combination of those to support the thesis.
 - b. Analyze several historical records of a single event, examining critical relationships between elements of the research topic.

- 2.3 Deliver oral responses to literature:
 - a. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the significant ideas of literary works (e.g., make assertions about the text that are reasonable and supportable).
 - b. Analyze the imagery, language, universal themes, and unique aspects of the text through the use of rhetorical strategies (e.g., narration, description, persuasion, exposition, a combination of those strategies).
- 2.4 Deliver multimedia presentations:
 - a. Combine text, images, and sound by incorporating information from a wide range of media, including films, newspapers, magazines, CD-ROMs, online information, television, videos, and electronic media-generated images.
 - b. Select an appropriate medium for each element of the presentation.
- 2.5 Recite poems, selections from speeches, or dramatic soliloquies with attention to performance details to achieve clarity, force, and aesthetic effect and to demonstrate an understanding of the meaning (e.g., Hamlet's soliloquy "To Be or Not to Be").

Senate Bill 2X High School Exit Exam Highlights

- Senate Bill 2X requires all students completing grade twelve to pass a high school exit exam in language arts and math commencing in 2003–04.
- The bill requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop and the State Board of Education to approve the exam by October 1, 2000.
- Beginning in 2000–01, grade nine students will be eligible to take the exam.
- Beginning in 2001–02, grade ten students will be required to take the exam.
- The law does not make the exam a requirement for graduation until 2003–04.
- If a pupil does not possess sufficient English language skills to be assessed by the exit exam, the district may defer the requirement that the student pass the exam "for a period of up to 24 calendar months of enrollment in the California public school system until the pupil has completed six months of instruction in reading, writing, and comprehension in the English language."

College Entrance Requirements

Parents generally know that many colleges require good high school grades for admission. Although grades are important, students do not have to have top grades to get into college. There are colleges for every student. You should also know that students need to take a specific series of college preparatory classes in high school, and the minimum requirements vary depending on the selected college or university. The a–g requirements noted below are submitted by the Regents of the University of California and are generally the most rigorous:

- a. An English class every semester of every year for four years.
- b. A mathematics class every semester of every year for three years, including algebra and geometry. Four years are recommended.
- c. Two years of a laboratory science beyond the ninth grade. An additional year is recommended.
- d. Two years of history–social science, which are to include U.S. government, world history, culture, and geography.
- e. Two years of the same language other than English.
- f. Two years of college preparatory electives in addition to those required in "a–e" above.
- g. One year of visual and performing arts, effective for the entering class of 2003.

Every high school has a list of acceptable classes and can tell you how many should be taken. At least one class in the area of visual or performing arts is a good choice for many students.

To gain admission to college, your children must also take either the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT) and submit the scores. Find out when the tests are given and be sure your children sign up to take one of them.

ENGLISH—LANGUAGE ARTS

The California Content Standards for Grades Eleven and Twelve

CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

2001

GRADES ELEVEN AND TWELVE

Reading

1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

Students apply their knowledge of word origins to determine the meaning of new words encountered in reading materials and use those words accurately.

Vocabulary and Concept Development

- 1.1 Trace the etymology of significant terms used in political science and history.
- 1.2 Apply knowledge of Greek, Latin, and Anglo-Saxon roots and affixes to draw inferences concerning the meaning of scientific and mathematical terminology.
- 1.3 Discern the meaning of analogies encountered, analyzing specific comparisons as well as relationships and inferences.

2.0 Reading Comprehension (Focus on Informational Materials)

Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They analyze the organizational patterns, arguments, and positions advanced. The selections in *Recommended Readings in Literature, Grades Nine Through Twelve* illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students. In addition, by grade twelve, students read two million words annually on their own, including a wide variety of classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, and online information.

Structural Features of Informational Materials

- 2.1 Analyze both the features and the rhetorical devices of different types of public documents (e.g., policy statements, speeches, debates, platforms) and the way in which authors use those features and devices.

Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

- 2.2 Analyze the way in which clarity of meaning is affected by the patterns of organization, hierarchical structures, repetition of the main ideas, syntax, and word choice in the text.

Expository Critique

- 2.6 Critique the power, validity, and truthfulness of arguments set forth in public documents; their appeal to both friendly and hostile audiences; and the extent to which the arguments anticipate and address reader concerns and counterclaims (e.g., appeal to reason, to authority, to pathos and emotion).

3.0 Literary Response and Analysis

Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They conduct in-depth analyses of recurrent themes. The selections in *Recommended Readings in Literature, Grades Nine Through Twelve* illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students.

Structural Features of Literature

- 3.1 Analyze characteristics of subgenres (e.g., satire, parody, allegory, pastoral) that are used in poetry, prose, plays, novels, short stories, essays, and other basic genres.

Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

- 3.2 Analyze the way in which the theme or meaning of a selection represents a view or comment on life, using textual evidence to support the claim.
- 3.3 Analyze the ways in which irony, tone, mood, the author’s style, and the “sound” of language achieve specific rhetorical or aesthetic purposes or both.

Literary Criticism

- 3.8 Analyze the clarity and consistency of political assumptions in a selection of literary works or essays on a topic (e.g., suffrage, women’s role in organized labor). (Political approach)
- 3.9 Analyze the philosophical arguments presented in literary works to determine whether the authors’ positions have contributed to the quality of each work and the credibility of the characters. (Philosophical approach)

Writing

1.0 Writing Strategies

Students write coherent and focused texts that convey a well-defined perspective and tightly reasoned argument. The writing demonstrates students’ awareness of the audience and purpose and progression through the stages of the writing process.

Organization and Focus

- 1.1 Demonstrate an understanding of the elements of discourse (e.g., purpose, speaker, audience, form) when completing narrative, expository, persuasive, or descriptive writing assignments.
- 1.2 Use point of view, characterization, style (e.g., use of irony), and related elements for specific rhetorical and aesthetic purposes.

Research and Technology

- 1.6 Develop presentations by using clear research questions and creative and critical research strategies (e.g., field studies, oral histories, interviews, experiments, electronic sources).
- 1.7 Use systematic strategies to organize and record information (e.g., anecdotal scripting, annotated bibliographies).

Evaluation and Revision

- 1.9 Revise text to highlight the individual voice, improve sentence variety and style, and enhance subtlety of meaning and tone in ways that are consistent with the purpose, audience, and genre.

2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Students combine the rhetorical strategies of narration, exposition, persuasion, and description to produce texts of at least 1,500 words each. Student writing demonstrates a command of standard American English and the research, organizational, and drafting strategies outlined in Writing Standard 1.0. Using

the writing strategies of grades eleven and twelve outlined in Writing Standard 1.0, students:

- 2.1 Write fictional, autobiographical, or biographical narratives:
 - a. Narrate a sequence of events and communicate their significance to the audience.
 - b. Locate scenes and incidents in specific places.
- 2.2 Write responses to literature:
 - a. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the significant ideas in works or passages.
 - b. Analyze the use of imagery, language, universal themes, and unique aspects of the text.
- 2.3 Write reflective compositions:
 - a. Explore the significance of personal experiences, events, conditions, or concerns by using rhetorical strategies (e.g., narration, description, exposition, persuasion).
 - b. Draw comparisons between specific incidents and broader themes that illustrate the writer’s important beliefs or generalizations about life.
- 2.4 Write historical investigation reports:
 - a. Use exposition, narration, description, argumentation, exposition, or some combination of rhetorical strategies to support the main proposition.
 - b. Analyze several historical records of a single event, examining critical relationships between elements of the research topic.
- 2.5 Write job applications and resumés:
 - a. Provide clear and purposeful information and address the intended audience appropriately.
 - b. Use varied levels, patterns, and types of language to achieve intended effects and aid comprehension.
- 2.6 Deliver multimedia presentations:
 - a. Combine text, images, and sound and draw information from many sources (e.g., tele-vision broadcasts, videos, films, newspapers, magazines, CD-ROMs, the Internet, electronic media-generated images).
 - b. Select an appropriate medium for each element of the presentation.

Written and Oral English Language Conventions

The standards for written and oral English language conventions have been placed between those for writing and for listening and speaking because these conventions are essential to both sets of skills.

1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions

Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions.

- 1.1 Demonstrate control of grammar, diction, and paragraph and sentence structure and an understanding of English usage.
- 1.2 Produce legible work that shows accurate spelling and correct punctuation and capitalization.
- 1.3 Reflect appropriate manuscript requirements in writing.