



# Common Core State Standards for Washington

## Eighth Grade Highlights

### The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts

#### Overview

These standards describe what students should know and be able to do in order to be college and career ready in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Students who master the standards will be fluent readers, critical thinkers, informative writers, effective speakers, and engaged listeners. They will effectively comprehend complex informational and literary texts and respond, as warranted by the task, using technology as a source of information and a means of communication.

The standards are divided into four strands: reading, (including literature and informational text and foundational skills), writing, speaking and listening, and language. The standards are organized by grade level for kindergarten through grade eight and by two grade spans for high school.

For grades six through twelve, the standards are covered in two sections, one for English language arts and the other for history/social studies, science, and technical subjects. The intention of these two sections is to promote an interdisciplinary approach to literacy. In K-5, these two sections are integrated into the four strands of the standards.

Specific information on the CCSS can be found at: <http://www.corestandards.org>

\*Individual grade-specific standards can be identified by their strand, grade, and standard number. For example, RL.8.5 stands for Reading Literature Text, grade 8, standard 5.



As Washington State moves to the Common Core State Standards, **eighth grade** students will continue to learn current Washington GLEs while transitioning to the CCSS. This snapshot features some of the shifts; however, it is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of changes to the standards.

#### Reading

- Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style. (RL.8.5)\*
- Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories). (RI.8.3)

#### Writing

- Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text. (W.8.1b)
- Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence. (W.8.1c)

#### Speaking and Listening

- Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced. (SL.8.3)
- Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest. (SL.8.5)

#### Language

- Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences. (L.8.1a)
- Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood. (L.8.1c)