

English 8 delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to build students' communication and reading comprehension skills. Reading comprehension lessons strengthen students' critical analysis skills as they study how nonfiction and literature can be used to share ideas. Writing lessons combine free-response exercises with drafting strategies and exemplars to help students communicate clearly and credibly in narrative, argumentative, and explanatory styles. To develop skills specific to public discourse, speaking and listening lessons guide students as they evaluate clips and readings from speeches and discussions. In language lessons, students build foundational grammar skills they need to articulate their ideas and understand challenging words.

The two-semester course is arranged in themed units, each with three to six lessons. Each lesson includes a variety of activities such as direct instruction, application of skills, performance tasks, and formative and summative assessments. Students engage with the subject matter in an interactive, feedback-rich environment as they progress through standards-aligned content and demonstrate their learning through computer- and teacher-scored assignments.

Length: Two semesters

UNIT 1: STORIES BASED ON STORIES

- Lesson 1: Plot Archetypes
- Lesson 2: Character Archetypes
- Lesson 3: Thematic Archetypes
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Stories Based on Stories

UNIT 2: STRUCTURE AND MEANING

- Lesson 1: The Form of a Story
- Lesson 2: Poetic Devices
- Lesson 3: Poetic Structure
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Structure and Meaning

UNIT 3: INFORMATIONAL WRITING

- Lesson 1: Reading an Informational Essay
- Lesson 2: Planning an Informational Essay
- Lesson 3: Writing an Informational Essay
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Informational Writing

UNIT 4: CREATIVE WRITING

- Lesson 1: Planning a Work of Flash Fiction
- Lesson 2: Writing a Work of Flash Fiction
- Lesson 3: Revising Flash Fiction
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Creative Writing

UNIT 5: SEMESTER WRAP-UP

- Lesson 1: Semester Wrap-Up