

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

#### **Read: "The Apple-Tree" by Katherine Mansfield**

Read and comprehend a story.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

#### **Study: Plot Archetypes**

Recognize the stages of plot, as well as plot and setting archetypes.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Checkup: Plot Archetypes**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Quiz: Plot Archetypes**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

#### **Discuss: Plot Archetypes**

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

### LESSON 2: CHARACTER ARCHETYPES

#### **Study: Character Archetypes**

Recognize character archetypes.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Study: Point of View and Irony**

Identify the point of view of a story and how dramatic irony is used.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Checkup: Character Archetypes**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Quiz: Character Archetypes**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

### **Read: Independent Reading**

Choose and begin reading a novel.

Duration: 4 hrs Scoring: 0 points

### **Discuss: Connecting to a Novel**

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

## **LESSON 3: THEMATIC ARCHETYPES**

### **Study: Symbolism**

Identify symbols, explicit details, and implicit details, and make inferences.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Study: Symbolism and Theme**

Recognize how symbols help to develop themes.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Checkup: Thematic Archetypes**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Quiz: Thematic Archetypes**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

### **Practice: Write a Summary**

Write objective and subjective summaries.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

## **LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: STORIES BASED ON STORIES**

### **Review: Stories Based on Stories**

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Test (CS): Stories Based on Stories**

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

## **UNIT 2: STRUCTURE AND MEANING**

### **LESSON 1: THE FORM OF A STORY**

#### **Read: "The Treasure of Lemon Brown" by Walter Dean Myers**

Read and comprehend a story.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

#### **Study: The Form of a Story**

Recognize different genres and media of stories.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Checkup: The Form of a Story**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Quiz: The Form of a Story**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

### **Practice: Compare and Contrast Stories**

Compare and contrast the genre and medium of two stories.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

## **LESSON 2: POETIC DEVICES**

### **Read: A Selection of Poems**

Read and comprehend a selection of poems.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

### **Study: Poetic Devices**

Recognize a variety of poetic devices and their effect on poems.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Checkup: Poetic Devices**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Quiz: Poetic Devices**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

### **Discuss: Poetic Devices**

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

## **LESSON 3: POETIC STRUCTURE**

### **Study: Poetic Structure**

Recognize the meter and structure of poems.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Checkup: Poetic Structure**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Quiz: Poetic Structure**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

### **Discuss: Poetic Structure**

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

## **LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: STRUCTURE AND MEANING**

### **Review: Structure and Meaning**

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Test (CS): Structure and Meaning**

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

## **UNIT 3: INFORMATIONAL WRITING**

### **LESSON 1: READING AN INFORMATIONAL ESSAY**

#### **Study: Word Meaning, Part 1**

Use context clues to determine word meanings.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Checkup: Word Meaning, Part 1**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Quiz: Word Meaning, Part 1**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

### **Read: An Example Informational Essay**

Read and comprehend an essay.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

## **LESSON 2: PLANNING AN INFORMATIONAL ESSAY**

### **Study: Parts of an Essay**

Recognize the parts of an informational essay.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Checkup: Parts of an Essay**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Quiz: Parts of an Essay**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

### **Practice: Plan an Informational Essay**

Plan and organize an informational essay.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

## **LESSON 3: WRITING AN INFORMATIONAL ESSAY**

### **Study: Writing as Craft: Punctuation**

Recognize and use correct punctuation.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Study: Writing as Craft: Capitalization and Spelling**

Recognize and use correct spelling and capitalization.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Checkup: Writing as Craft**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Quiz: Writing as Craft**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

### **Practice: Write an Informational Essay**

Write and revise an informational essay and participate in peer review.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

## **LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: INFORMATIONAL WRITING**

### **Review: Informational Writing**

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Test (CS): Informational Writing**

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

## **UNIT 4: CREATIVE WRITING**

## LESSON 1: PLANNING A WORK OF FLASH FICTION

### Read: From *Alicia in Wonder Tierra* by Silvia Gonzalez

Read and comprehend part of a play.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

### Study: Storytelling

Understand how staging, dialogue, and description develop a story.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

### Study: Creative Writing

Recognize the elements of an engaging story.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

### Checkup: Storytelling and Creative Writing

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### Quiz: Storytelling and Creative Writing

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

## LESSON 2: WRITING A WORK OF FLASH FICTION

### Study: Writing as Craft: Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences

Recognize and correctly use phrases, clauses, and sentences.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

### Checkup: Writing as Craft

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### Quiz: Writing as Craft

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

### Practice: Write a Work of Flash Fiction

Write a work of flash fiction using narrative techniques.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

## LESSON 3: REVISING FLASH FICTION

### Study: Tone, Style, Mood, and Voice

Recognize tone, style, mood, and voice in texts.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

### Checkup: Tone, Style, Mood, and Voice

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### Quiz: Tone, Style, Mood, and Voice

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

### Practice: Revise a Work of Flash Fiction

Revise a work of flash fiction.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

## LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: CREATIVE WRITING

### Review: Creative Writing

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Test (CS): Creative Writing**

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

## **UNIT 5: SEMESTER WRAP-UP**

### **LESSON 1: SEMESTER WRAP-UP**

#### **Review: Semester Review**

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Exam: Semester Exam**

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the semester.

Duration: 1 hr 15 mins Scoring: 50 points

## **UNIT 6: NONFICTION**

### **LESSON 1: LITERARY NONFICTION**

#### **Read: A Work of Literary Nonfiction**

Read and comprehend an excerpt from a work of literary nonfiction by John Steinbeck.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

#### **Study: Literary Nonfiction**

Understand how to find the purpose, perspective, and message in a work of literary nonfiction.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Checkup: Literary Nonfiction**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Quiz: Literary Nonfiction**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

#### **Discuss: Literary Nonfiction**

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

### **LESSON 2: INFORMATIONAL TEXTS**

#### **Read: Three Informational Texts**

Read and comprehend three visually-organized documents.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

#### **Study: Informational Texts**

Identify the characteristics of visually-organized documents.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Study: Graphics**

Analyze the use of graphics to support understanding.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Checkup: Informational Texts**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Quiz: Informational Texts**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

#### **Practice: Evaluate an Informational Text**

Write objective and subjective summaries of texts.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

### LESSON 3: CORRESPONDENCE

#### Study: Word Meaning, Part 2

Use strategies to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### Checkpoint: Word Meaning, Part 2

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### Quiz: Word Meaning, Part 2

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

#### Practice: Write a Letter

Write a letter using domain-specific vocabulary.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

### LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: NONFICTION

#### Review: Nonfiction

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### Test (CS): Nonfiction

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

## UNIT 7: PERSUASIVE TEXTS

### LESSON 1: CONFLICTING ACCOUNTS

#### Read: Conflicting Accounts

Read and comprehend four texts that discuss women's suffrage.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

#### Study: Conflicting Accounts

Identify how authors' perspectives and biases are revealed in texts.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### Checkpoint: Conflicting Accounts

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### Quiz: Conflicting Accounts

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

#### Discuss: Conflicting Accounts

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

### LESSON 2: RHETORIC

#### Study: Rhetoric

Understand audience appeals and rhetorical devices.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### Checkpoint: Rhetoric

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Quiz: Rhetoric**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

### **Read: Political Ads**

Watch and comprehend two political ads from opposing candidates.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

### **Practice: Analyze Political Ads**

Analyze how texts use rhetoric to persuade readers.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

## **LESSON 3: ANALYZING ARGUMENTS**

### **Read: Example Argumentative Essay**

Read and comprehend a sample student essay about internet access.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

### **Study: Analyzing Arguments**

Identify the traits of argumentative writing, including claims, reasons, and evidence.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Checkup: Analyzing Arguments**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Quiz: Analyzing Arguments**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

### **Discuss: Analyzing Arguments**

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

## **LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: PERSUASIVE TEXTS**

### **Review: Persuasive Texts**

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### **Test (CS): Persuasive Texts**

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

## **UNIT 8: ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING**

### **LESSON 1: RESEARCH, PART 1**

#### **Study: Research, Part 1**

Understand how to narrow down a research topic and find sources.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Checkup: Research, Part 1**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### **Quiz: Research, Part 1**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

### **LESSON 2: RESEARCH, PART 2**



**Study: Research, Part 2**

Determine whether sources are credible and relevant.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

**Checkup: Research, Part 2**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

**Quiz: Research, Part 2**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

**Practice: Plan an Argumentative Essay**

Plan a researched argumentative essay.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

**LESSON 3: WRITING AS CRAFT****Study: Writing as Craft: Pronouns and Verbs**

Confirm understanding of pronouns and verbs.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

**Checkup: Writing as Craft**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

**Quiz: Writing as Craft**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

**Practice: Write an Argumentative Essay**

Write and revise a researched argumentative essay.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

**LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING****Review: Argumentative Writing**

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

**Test (CS): Argumentative Writing**

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

**UNIT 9: MULTIMEDIA****LESSON 1: WORKING IN GROUPS****Study: Working in Groups**

Understand how to work well in a group of peers.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

**Checkup: Working in Groups**

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

**Quiz: Working in Groups**

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

**Practice: Create Lessons**

Work with a group of peers to create two short lessons.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

## LESSON 2: GIVING SPEECHES

### Study: Giving Speeches

Recognize the techniques for giving an effective speech.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

### Checkup: Giving Speeches

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### Quiz: Giving Speeches

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

### Practice: Prepare a Speech

Prepare a five-minute speech on an important topic.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

### Discuss: Peer Evaluation

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

## LESSON 3: MEDIA

### Study: Media

Understand how media can be used to enhance a speech.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

### Checkup: Media

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### Quiz: Media

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

### Practice: Adapt a Speech

Adapt a speech to a different audience and situation.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

## LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: MULTIMEDIA

### Review: Multimedia

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

### Test (CS): Multimedia

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

## UNIT 10: SEMESTER WRAP-UP

### LESSON 1: SEMESTER WRAP-UP

#### Review: Semester Review

Review key terms and objectives from this semester.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

#### Exam: Semester Exam

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the semester.

Duration: 1 hr 15 mins Scoring: 50 points

