

**COMMON CORE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
FOR
ELEVENTH/TWELFTH GRADE**

Common Core Essential Elements for Eleventh-Twelfth Grade

Eleventh-Twelfth Grade English Language Arts Standards: Reading (Literature)	
CCSS Grade-Level Standards	Common Core Essential Elements
Key Ideas and Details.	
RL.11-12.1. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.	EERL.11-12.1. Cite textual evidence to determine where the text leaves matters uncertain.
RL.11-12.2. Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.	EERL.11-12.2. Provide a summary of an unfamiliar text.
RL.11-12.3. Analyze the impact of the author’s choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).	EERL.11-12.3. Explain how characters develop over the course of a story.
Craft and Structure.	
RL.11-12.4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings or language that is particularly fresh, engaging, or beautiful. (Include Shakespeare as well as other authors.)	EERL.11-12.4. Determine how words or phrases with multiple meanings have an impact on meaning or tone of a text.
RL.11-12.5. Analyze how an author’s choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.	EERL.11-12.5. Determine how the author’s choice of where to end the story contributes to the meaning.
RL.11-12.6. Analyze a case in which grasping a point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant (e.g., satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement).	EERL.11-12.6. Identify the intended meaning to match what an author wrote.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas.	
RL.11-12.7. Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluating how each version interprets the source text. (Include at least one play by Shakespeare and one play by an American dramatist.)	EERL.11-12.7. Compare two or more interpretations (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry) of a story, drama, or poem.
RL.11-12.8. (Not applicable to literature)	EERL.11-12.8. N/A

Eleventh-Twelfth Grade English Language Arts Standards: Reading (Literature)	
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RL.11-12.9. Demonstrate knowledge of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early-twentieth-century foundational works of American literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics.	EERL.11-12.9. Compare and contrast elements of American literature to other literary works, self, or one's world. (Compare themes, topics, locations, context, and point of view.)
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity.	
RL.11-12.10. By the end of grade 11, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 11–CCR text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	EERL.11-12.10. **This Literature Essential Element references all elements above.

Eleventh-Twelfth Grade English Language Arts Standards: Reading (Informational Text)	
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Key Ideas and Details.	
RI.11-12.1. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.	EERI.11-12.1. Cite textual evidence to determine where informational text leaves matters uncertain.
RI.11-12.2. Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex analysis; provide an objective summary of the text.	EERI.11-12.2. Provide a summary of an informational text.
RI.11-12.3. Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop over the course of the text.	EERI.11-12.3. Explain how specific events develop over the course of the text.
Craft and Structure.	
RI.11-12.4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term or terms over the course of a text (e.g., how Madison defines faction in Federalist No. 10).	EERI.11-12.4. Determine the meaning of words or phrases within an informational text.
RI.11-12.5. Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in his or her exposition or argument, including whether the structure makes points clear, convincing, and engaging.	EERI.11-12.5. Determine how the author's choice of where to make an argument contributes to the meaning.

Eleventh-Twelfth Grade English Language Arts Standards: Reading (Informational Text)	
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RI.11-12.6. Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective, analyzing how style and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness, or beauty of the text.	EERI.11-12.6. Determine how the author’s style affects the purpose of the text.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas.	
RI.11-12.7. Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.	EERI.11-12.7. Analyze information presented in different media on related topics to answer questions or solve problems.
RI.11-12.8. Delineate and evaluate the reasoning in seminal U.S. texts, including the application of constitutional principles and use of legal reasoning (e.g., in U.S. Supreme Court majority opinions and dissents) and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy (e.g., <i>The Federalist</i> , presidential addresses).	EERI.11-12.8. Explain how U.S. texts inform citizens’ rights.
RI.11-12.9. Analyze seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century foundational U.S. documents of historical and literary significance (including The Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address) for their themes, purposes, and rhetorical features.	EERI.11-12.9. Determine the purposes of foundational U. S. documents of historical significance.
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity.	
RI.11-12.10. By the end of grade 11, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 11–CCR text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	EERI.11-12.10. **This Essential Element references all elements above.

Eleventh-Twelfth Grade English Language Arts Standards: Writing	
CCSS Grade-Level Standards	Common Core Essential Elements
Text Types and Purposes.	
W.11-12.1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence. a. Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence. b. Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience’s knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases.	EEW.11-12.1.a-b. Write to express an opinion with supporting information about a topic or text and a concluding statement.

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c. Use words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.	EEW.11-12.1.c. N/A
d. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the	EEW.11-12.1.d. N/A
e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.	EEW.11-12.1.e. N/A
W.11-12.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content. a. Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension. b. Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.	EEW.11-12.2.a-b. Write to convey ideas and information using clear organization and including facts, details, and other information as well as graphics and multimedia as needed.
c. Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.	EEW.11-12.2.c. N/A
d. Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.	EEW.11-12.2.d. N/A
e. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.	EEW.11-12.2.e. N/A
f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).	EEW.11-12.2.f. N/A

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<p>W.11-12.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.</p> <p>a. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.</p> <p>b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.</p> <p>c. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).</p>	<p>EEW.11-12.3. Select an event or personal experience and write about it.</p> <p>a-c. Introduce an experience or situation, at least one character, and describe multiple events in sequence.</p>
<p>d. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.</p>	EEW.11-12.3.d. N/A
<p>e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.</p>	EEW.11-12.3.e. N/A
Production and Distribution of Writing.	
<p>W.11-12.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)</p>	EEW.11-12.4. Produce writing that is appropriate to a particular task, purpose, and audience.
<p>W.11-12.5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.</p>	EEW.11-12.5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, and rewriting.
<p>W.11-12.6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.</p>	EEW.11-12.6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish and update an individual or shared writing project.
Research to Build and Present Knowledge.	
<p>W.11-12.7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.</p>	EEW.11-12.7. Conduct short research projects to answer questions posed by self and others using multiple sources of information.

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W.11-12.8. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.	EEW.11-12.8. Select information from multiple sources and use the information to write answers to research questions.
W.11-12.9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. a. Apply <i>grades 11–12 Reading standards</i> to literature (e.g., “Demonstrate knowledge of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early-twentieth-century foundational works of American literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics”).	EEW.11-12.9. Cite evidence from literary or informational texts. a. Apply <i>Grades 11-12 Essential Elements for Reading Standards</i> to literature (e.g., “Compare and contrast elements of American literature to other literary works, self, or one’s world. [Compare themes, topics, locations, context, and point of view].”).
b. Apply <i>grades 11–12 Reading standards</i> to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the reasoning in seminal U.S. texts, including the application of constitutional principles and use of legal reasoning [e.g., in U.S. Supreme Court Case majority opinions and dissents] and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy [e.g., <i>The Federalist</i> , presidential addresses]”).	EEW.11-12.9.b. Apply <i>Essential Elements of Grade 11-12 Reading Standards</i> to nonfictional or informational texts (e.g., “Explain how U.S. texts inform citizens’ rights.”).
Range of Writing.	
W.11-12.10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.	EEW.11-12.10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Eleventh-Twelfth Grade English Language Arts Standards: Speaking and Listening	
CCSS Grade-Level Standards	Common Core Essential Elements
Comprehension and Collaboration.	
SL.11-12.1. Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively. a. Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.	EESL.11-12.1. Initiate and participate in collaborative discussions. a. Prepare for discussions by collecting information on the topic.
b. Work with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision- making, set clear goals and deadlines, and establish individual roles as needed.	EESL.11-12.1.b. Work with peers to set rules, goals, and deadlines to promote democratic discussions.
c. Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that probe reasoning and evidence; ensure a hearing for a full range of positions on a topic or issue; clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions; and promote divergent and creative perspectives.	EESL.11-12.1.c. Ask and answer questions to verify or clarify own ideas and understandings during a discussion.
d. Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task.	EESL.11-12.1.d. Restate comments or claims made by others during a discussion.
SL.11-12.2. Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among the data.	EESL.11-12.2. Determine the credibility and accuracy of information presented across diverse media or formats.
SL.11-12.3. Evaluate a speaker’s point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used.	EESL.11-12.3. Determine whether the claims made by a speaker are credible (e.g., fact or opinion; supported or unsupported).
Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas.	
SL.11-12.4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed, and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range of formal and informal tasks.	EESL.11-12.4. Present information and findings as well as alternative or opposing information, with an organization that is appropriate to the purpose, audience, and task.

Eleventh-Twelfth Grade English Language Arts Standards: Speaking and Listening	
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SL.11-12.5. Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.	EESL.11-12.5. Use digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to support understanding.
SL.11-12.6. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (See grades 11-12 Language Standards 1 and 3 for specific expectations.)	EESL.11-12.6. Adapt communication to a variety of contexts and tasks using complete sentences when indicated or appropriate.

Eleventh-Twelfth Grade English Language Arts Standards: Language	
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Conventions of Standard English.	
L.11-12.1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. a. Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contested.	EEL.11-12.1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. a. Apply understandings that conventions of English are required in some forms of communication (e.g., writing a letter to advocate for something) but not in others (e.g., writing an e-mail or a text message to a friend).
b. Resolve issues of complex or contested usage, consulting references (e.g., <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage</i> , <i>Garner's Modern American Usage</i>) as needed.	EEL.11-12.1.b. Use appropriate resources to resolve issues involving grammar usage, punctuation, and spelling (e.g., end of sentence punctuation, commas, question marks, exclamation points, hyphenation, parentheses, and colons).
L.11-12.2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. a. Observe hyphenation conventions.	EEL.11-12.2. Apply knowledge of conventions of English grammar to convey desired meaning in writing and communication.
b. Spell correctly.	EEL.11-12.2.b. N/A
Knowledge of Language.	
L.11-12.3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening. a. Vary syntax for effect, consulting references (e.g., <i>Tufte's Artful Sentences</i>) for guidance as needed; apply an understanding of syntax to the study of complex texts when reading.	EEL.11-12.3. Use knowledge of language to achieve desired meaning when writing or communicating. a. Vary sentence structure using a variety of simple and compound sentence structures.

Eleventh-Twelfth Grade English Language Arts Standards: Language	
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<p>L.11-12.4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on <i>grades 11–12 reading and content</i>, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.</p> <p>a. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.</p>	<p>EEL.11-12.4. Demonstrate knowledge of the meaning of words and phrases drawn reading and academic content.</p> <p>a. Use context to determine the meaning of unknown words.</p>
<p>b. Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., <i>conceive, conception, conceivable</i>).</p>	EEL.11-12.4.b. N/A
<p>c. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, its etymology, or its standard usage.</p>	EEL.11-12.4.c. N/A
<p>d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).</p>	EEL.11-12.4.d. Consult reference materials (dictionaries, online vocabulary supports) to clarify the meaning of unfamiliar words encountered when reading.
<p>L.11-12.5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</p> <p>a. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text.</p>	<p>EEL.11-12.5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language and words relationships.</p> <p>a. Interpret simple figures of speech encountered while reading or listening.</p>
<p>b. Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.</p>	EEL.11-12.5.b. N/A
<p>L.11-12.6. Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.</p>	EEL.11-12.6. Use academic and domain-specific words and phrases for communication appropriate for the student’s educational plans and career goals.

