

English Language Arts 8

Course Overview and Syllabus

Course Number: ELA3008

Grade level: 8

Prerequisite Courses: None

Credits: 1.0

Course Description

In this course, students build on their knowledge and blossom as thoughtful readers and clear, effective writers. A balance of literary and informational text engages students throughout the course in reading critically, analyzing texts, and citing evidence to support claims. Students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills through lessons designed to provide explicit modeling and ample opportunities to practice. Students also routinely write responses to texts they have read, and use more extensive, process-based lessons to produce full-length essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats. In this full-year course, students develop a mastery of reading, writing, and language arts skills.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Read complex texts at grade level.
- Understand and analyze the structure and elements of literature from various genres.
- Increase academic and domain-specific vocabulary.
- Use text evidence to analyze, infer, and synthesize ideas.
- Engage in routine writing in response to texts read and analyzed.
- Use the writing process to complete a variety of essay writing assignments.
- Develop research skills to access, interpret, and apply information from multiple sources.
- Gain the tools for speaking and listening in discussions and presentations.
- Learn a variety of real-world and digital communication skills.

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson

- Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, email, chat, and system announcements. You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, as you collaborate on projects, ask and answer questions in your peer group, and develop your speaking and listening skills.

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Assignments	10%
Essays	15%
Lesson Quizzes	20%
Unit Tests	30%
Cumulative Exams	20%
Projects	5%

Scope and Sequence

When you log into Edgenuity, you can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics you will study. There are 12 units of study grouped by the quarterly themes of Heroism, Perseverance, Identity, and Community.

- Unit 1:** American Heroes
- Unit 2:** Lives of Commitment
- Unit 3:** Everyday Heroes
- Unit 4:** Rising to the Challenge
- Unit 5:** Setting Goals
- Unit 6:** Bravery and Resistance

- Unit 7:** Belonging
- Unit 8:** Rise to the Occasion
- Unit 9:** Chance vs. Choice
- Unit 10:** Making Communities Safer
- Unit 11:** The Promise of America
- Unit 12:** Out of Many, One