

English Language Arts 8

Course Overview and Syllabus

Course Number: ELA3008VA

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 texts engage students throughout the course. Students learn how to read critically, analyze texts, and cite evidence to support claims. Students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills through lessons designed to provide explicit modeling and ample opportunities are included throughout the course for students to practice. Students also routinely write responses to texts they have read, and students use more extensive process-based lessons to produce full-length essays in narrative, informative, 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 | 10% |
| Lesson Quizzes | 20% |
| Unit Tests | 30% |
| Cumulative Exams | 20% |
| Projects | 10% |

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.

- Unit 1:** Everyday Heroes
- Unit 2:** American Heroes
- Unit 3:** Setting Goals
- Unit 4:** Chance and Choice
- Unit 5:** Bravery and Resistance
- Unit 6:** Belonging
- Unit 7:** Rising to the Occasion
- Unit 8:** Making Communities Safer
- Unit 9:** The Promise of America