

English 7

The goal of the Secondary English Language Arts program is to cultivate literate, thoughtful citizens who are capable of communicating effectively as they negotiate an increasingly complex and information-rich world. Now that students have made the transition into middle school in sixth grade, English 7 directs them to refine specific skills and strategies in writing, speaking, reading, viewing, and listening through the study of language and literature.

The course is divided into four thematic units: Identity, A Sense of Place, Perspectives, and Expressions. Each unit includes lesson sequences and materials structured to meet the Common Core State Standards in meaningful ways and to provide flexibility for teachers to extend and support learning. Formative assessments in each unit are designed to measure student progress towards mastering focus indicators for the processes and content of English.

As students begin to think abstractly, they are more likely to question what they read, write, say, see, and hear. Lessons and resources in the Instruction Center are designed to foster growth in all areas and offer a variety of writing opportunities. Students write to discover and clarify what they think, to explore their ideas and communicate with others. They engage in a variety of types of writing and experiment with various methods of development. By focusing on the 6 Traits of excellent writing (ideas and development, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, and conventions), students learn to express themselves effectively and develop their own individual voices. They learn to view grammar, usage, and sentence construction as integral parts of the drafting and revision process.

Students read a variety of novels, short stories, poems, plays, visuals, and nonfiction works to become more facile with both written and spoken language. Vocabulary development is also an important outgrowth of literature and language study. The goal in integrating all of these components throughout the course is to help students learn to think critically, question what they read and view, and express their original ideas with confidence and clarity.

A Note about This Guide:

This document is intended as a resource and supplement for the English 7 course page in the Instruction Center. While this document may certainly be printed, it is built to be used electronically. It contains hyperlinks to webpages both inside and outside MCPS. It will be updated and revised frequently, with all updates announced through the English Forum. Please note the date on the title page to ensure that you have the most up-to-date version.

ENGLISH 7 COMMON TASKS

Unit One: Identity

- 7.1.1 Present a brief speech to the class that highlights an aspect of a person's identity.*
- 7.1.2 Explain how a character is revealed through interactions with other characters.
- 7.1.3 Write a personal narrative about a significant influence on your identity.
- 7.1.4 Write an argument about a central idea or an issue raised by a text.

Unit Two: A Sense of Place

- 7.2.1 Compare how a fictional text and a nonfiction text portray the same subject.
- 7.2.2 Write a short story that shows how setting helps shape character.
- 7.2.3 Explain how an author develops a theme in a narrative.*
- 7.2.4 Research the history of a nearby place and present an argument about its value or importance.

Unit Three: Perspectives

- 7.3.1 Write an analysis of how an author uses narrative to influence readers' understanding of history.*
- 7.3.2 Write a narrative that explores a different perspective than one offered in a text.
- 7.3.3 Write an essay that explains at least two different perspectives on an issue or problem of interest.
- 7.3.4 Evaluate how objectively a subject is presented in an informational video segment.

Unit Four: Expressions

- 7.4.1 Create an original work that presents or supports an argument.
- 7.4.2 Write an analysis of how an author uses language to establish a particular tone.
- 7.4.3 Analyze how the performance of a written text affects the impact of the words.*
- 7.4.4 Prepare and perform a scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

** Teachers who wish to make more time for re-teaching a common task may choose to omit these starred tasks or blend them into others, but the relevant skills and concepts must be incorporated into instruction during the unit.*
