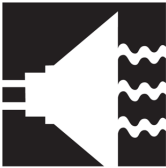


INTERNET OF THINGS AND SMART HOME (VIRTUAL)



PURPOSE

To evaluate each contestant's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of home technology integration.

First, download and review the General Regulations at: <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to active SkillsUSA members enrolled in programs with computer networking, telecommunications cabling, home theater installation, electronics applications and/or electronics technology as the occupational objectives.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENT

Class E: Contest specific — Business Casual

- Official SkillsUSA white polo shirt.
- Black dress slacks (accompanied by black dress socks or black or skin-tone seamless hose) or black dress skirt (knee-length, accompanied by black or skin-tone seamless hose).

Contest Clothing Notes (Apply ONLY to Virtual Competitions):

- Official SkillsUSA Competition Clothing recommended but NOT required.
- Contestant clothing options include the following:
 - Official Competition Clothing.
 - Trade Appropriate Clothing.
 - Professional Dress.
 - Business Casual.
- Clothing must meet industry safety standards.
- No identification of the contestant, school or state is allowed on clothing.
- No offensive, vulgar or inappropriate images or text are allowed on contestants clothing.

- No shorts or sleeveless shirts are allowed.
- Skirts must be at least knee-length.
- Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn by contestant to meet all state, local and school requirements due to COVID-19.
- Scoring deductions may only be given and/or disqualification of contestant if clothing safety standards are not met.

These regulations refer to clothing items that are pictured and described at: www.skillsusastore.org. If you have questions about clothing or other logo items, call 1-888-501-2183.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Supplied by the contestant:

1. Computer with high-speed internet capability and camera to use applications such as Zoom, Teams, etc. The minimum recommended internet bandwidth speeds for joining Zoom meetings, accessing on-demand curriculum and other online operations is 2.0 Mbps up and down. You can test your current internet speeds by following this link: www.speedtest.net. Allow the page to load and click on GO.
2. A secondary camera(s) may be required to provide judges with the ability to view contestants from different angles. Additional camera requirements will be located on the SkillsUSA website at: <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.
3. A contest Proctor will be required to be on site to assist judges. A local industry expert is preferred to serve as the Proctor and shall not be an individual that has been involved with the training of the contestant(s). The Proctor will serve as the onsite "hands and eyes" for the judges. Proctor will follow instructions from the judges for safety and operations related to the competition. Proctor may be asked by judges to perform several tasks such as operating a portable camera to show specific components or steps, measure parts, or any task that will provide judges with information needed to assist in accurate scoring of the contestant's work or presentation. However, the Proctor shall not serve as a judge nor have any influence on contestant scores.

4. The contestant's instructor or advisor shall be on site to observe all competition activities to ensure a safe and healthy competition experience for all participants. That instructor or advisor will not be allowed to interact or interfere with the competitor unless a safety issue arises that requires interaction. Any other support or interaction between the contestant and the instructor/advisor will result in disqualification.
5. All competitors must create a one-page résumé and submit an electronic copy to the technical committee chair at least seven (7) days in advance of the competition. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty. Instructions for submission of the electronic résumé copy will be provided on the SkillsUSA website at <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.
6. All necessary information for the judges and technical committee
7. Phillips & Flat Screwdriver (#1 & #2)
8. Precision (small) screwdriver set
9. Drill Motor / Wood Drill Bit
10. Multimeter
11. Cable tester (Network / Coax)
12. Laptop computer
13. Measuring Tape (18' +)
14. RJ11/RJ45 crimpers
15. Coax compression tool (BNC, F&RCA)
16. Coax strippers
17. High gauge wire strippers (20-25 AWG)
18. Diagonal cutters (small)
19. Needle-nose pliers (small)
20. 12" Level
21. Drywall Saw
22. Zip Ties
23. Fish Tape / Glow Rods
24. Stud Finder
25. Safety Glasses

Note: Your contest may also require a hard copy of your résumé as part of the actual contest. Check the Contest Guidelines and/or the updates page on the SkillsUSA website at <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

SCOPE OF THE CONTEST

The contest is defined by industry standards as set by the current industry technical committee. The contest will be divided into two parts: general knowledge test and a skilled performance.

Knowledge Performance

The contest will include a written exam assessing general knowledge of residential electronics installation and maintenance including smart house technologies. Written portions may also exist during the skills portion of the contest.

Skill Performance

The skills performance event assesses the ability of the contestant to install, maintain and troubleshoot a variety of devices encountered in a residential setting. A practical problem(s) will be given to evaluate the contestant's ability to function on a basic entry level.

Contest Guidelines

1. The contests will have several hands-on skill scenarios that demonstrate one's ability to perform jobs or skills selected from the list of competencies as determined by the SkillsUSA Championships technical committee. Scenarios may include any or several of the following:
 - a. Diagnose and service personal residential electronic systems
 - b. Diagnose and resolve operational and startup problems
 - c. Locate and identify defective modules within residential electronic equipment
 - d. Demonstrate ability to use diagnostic utility software and equipment
 - e. Install, configure and demonstrate proper operations of devices within the residence
2. The hardware problems will relate to any residential networked systems.
3. Contestants will be awarded points based on their ability to solve the provided problems within the allotted time. Partial points can be awarded for solving partial problems.
4. Competence in the provided tasks is considered when a contestant acquires 75 percent of the available points.

5. Contestants will be provided, as required, manufacturers' documentation of the devices to be installed and/or serviced.
6. Winners will be determined on the basis of their total scores (regardless of result on certification test), which includes diagnostic procedures, speed, standard industry procedures, accuracy of adjustments and correct component replacements.
7. Specific penalties will be assessed for the failure to properly use anti-static straps at all times when in contact with the computers and for the introduction of computer viruses into the contest computers. Penalties will be assessed at one point per occurrence, and notice of infractions will be communicated to the contestant when they occur.

Standards and Competencies

Note for Virtual Competitions: Contestants may not be required to perform all the standards and competencies listed in this section. However, contestants should be prepared to perform components in all areas. Prior to the competition, the technical committee may determine which standards and competencies contestants will be perform for the virtual contests. The technical committee will determine if additional information is needed for contestants prior to the competition. These changes will be posted on the SkillsUSA Championships contest update website at: <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

Networking

RSIM 1.0 — Identify basic networking protocols and their uses and know when/how to apply them

- 1.1 DHCP
- 1.2 UDP
- 1.3 DNS
- 1.4 TCP/IP
- 1.5 Subnet masks

RSIM 2.0 — Recognize and implement methods of network security

- 2.1 Personal computer (PC) security
- 2.2 Antivirus
- 2.3 Home networking security
- 2.4 Firewall knowledge

RSIM 3.0 — Configure setup and maintain a residential LAN (Local Area Network)

- 3.1 Client configuration
 - 3.1.1 Resource sharing
 - 3.1.2 Peer-to-peer
- 3.2 Remote access setup
- 3.3 Network device setup and integration
 - 3.3.1 Broadband configuration (e.g., DSL, cable and satellite)
 - 3.3.2 Routers
 - 3.3.3 Hubs
 - 3.3.4 Switches
 - 3.3.5 PoE (power over ethernet)

RSIM 4.0 — Configure setup and maintain a secure wireless network

- 4.1 Differentiate applications of hardwired vs. wireless networks
- 4.2 Assess networking security and encryption standards
 - 4.2.1 WEP
 - 4.2.2 WPA
 - 4.2.3 MAC filtering
 - 4.2.4 SSID
 - 4.2.5 WPA2
- 4.3 Wireless networking integration and troubleshooting
 - 4.3.1 Frequency management
- 4.4 Wireless protocol standards
 - 4.4.1 802.11 a/b/g/n

RSIM 5.0 — Identify and define network cabling characteristics and performance

- 5.1 Cable types
 - 5.1.1 CAT5
 - 5.1.2 CAT5e
 - 5.1.3 CAT6
 - 5.1.4 Fiber
 - 5.1.5 COAX
- 5.2 Cable length limitations
- 5.3 Protocols
 - 5.3.1 10BaseT
 - 5.3.2 100BaseT
 - 5.3.3 1000BaseT
- 5.4 Shielded (STP) vs. unshielded (UTP)
- 5.5 Plenum vs. non-plenum
- 5.6 Importance of conductor colors

Audio/Video

RSIM 6.0 — Implement, maintain and troubleshoot multi-room audio systems. Identify common interference sources

- 6.1 Control devices
 - 6.1.1 Keypads
 - 6.1.2 Rotary volume controls
 - 6.1.3 Sliders
 - 6.1.4 Push button controls
 - 6.1.5 Touch screen
 - 6.1.6 Wireless keypads
 - 6.1.7 Handheld devices
- 6.2 Differentiate and define single source, multi-source and local source.
 - 6.2.1 Analog audio system
 - 6.2.2 Analog CAT5 audio system
 - 6.2.3 Digital CAT5 audio system
- 6.3 Proper cable use
 - 6.3.1 Line level vs. speaker level
- 6.4 Amplification
 - 6.4.1 Ohm's Law (e.g., impedance matched or non-impedance matched)
 - 6.4.2 Watts vs. dB
 - 6.4.3 Local amplification
 - 6.4.4 Centralized amplification
- 6.5 Speaker types
 - 6.5.1 In wall
 - 6.5.2 Surface mounted
 - 6.5.3 Ceiling mounted
 - 6.5.4 Freestanding
 - 6.5.5 Fixed
 - 6.5.6 Animated
- 6.6 Speaker specifications
 - 6.6.1 Frequency response
 - 6.6.2 Efficiency
 - 6.6.3 Power handling

RSIM 7.0 — Install, configure and maintain a residential home theater system

- 7.1 Audio components
 - 7.1.1 Define basics of acoustics (e.g., sound reflection, speaker placement, sound cancellation, sound balance)
 - 7.1.2 Audio/Video components setup and integration (e.g., digital signal cables and lengths, legacy devices)
 - 7.1.3 Multichannel surround (e.g., SACD, DVDA, DTS, DTSES,

DDEX, DD, etc.) (e.g., crossovers and speaker setup)

- 7.2 Video components
 - 7.2.1 Display types (e.g., plasma, DLP, LCD, LCOS, CRT, rear projection, front projection, direct view)
 - 7.2.2 High-definition resolutions options (e.g., 720p, 1080i, 1080p, etc.)
 - 7.2.3 Tuner types (e.g., NTSC, PAL, ATSC, QAM, cable card, VSB, NDVBT, DVBS)
 - 7.2.4 Video processing (e.g., scalers, processors, up-conversion)
 - 7.2.5 Aspect ratios
 - 7.2.6 Video setup (calibration e.g., color balance, contrast, brightness, etc.)
 - 7.2.7 Digital video cable and connector types (e.g., DVI and HDMI — compatibility and interoperability issues)
- 7.3 Use MRAV (Multi-Room Audio/Video) standards if/when applicable

RSIM 8.0 — Assess, install and configure content management systems and describe their applications in a residential environment

- 8.1 Describe typical applications and physical connections of sources
 - 8.1.1 Media servers
 - 8.1.2 Media PC
 - 8.1.3 MP3 players
 - 8.1.4 DVD players
 - 8.1.5 Satellite
 - 8.1.6 Cable
 - 8.1.7 DVR
 - 8.1.8 Gaming systems
 - 8.1.9 Satellite radio
 - 8.1.10 Legacy devices
 - 8.1.11 Streaming media
- 8.2 Summarize types of media storage, methods to transfer and backup data
 - 8.2.1 Memory cards
 - 8.2.2 NAS devices (Network Attached Devices)
 - 8.2.3 Remote storage
 - 8.2.4 Local storage
 - 8.2.5 Frequency of backup
- 8.3 Other connection considerations
 - 8.3.1 Digital rights management

RSIM 9.0 — Implement, maintain and troubleshoot multi-room video systems.

- 9.1 Define signal types and their applications
 - 9.1.1 Digital distribution (e.g., analog to IP converters, IP to analog converters, wireless distribution, IEEE 1394)
 - 9.1.2 RF distribution characteristics. Identify and troubleshoot noise and interference. (e.g., splitters and taps, active and passive, attenuators, bidirectional, modulation and filtration, amplification, IR over COAX)
 - 9.1.3 Analog Distribution (e.g., Composite, Component, and SVideo, Balun.)
- 9.2 Identify cable types and their applications
 - 9.2.1 COAX (e.g., RG-59, RG-6, RG-6 QS, DV, Serial data, CCS, BC)
 - 9.2.2 CAT5/5e/6
- 9.3 Termination (e.g., RCA, BNC, and F)
- 9.4 Satellite
 - 9.4.1 Multi-switches
 - 9.4.2 Diplexer
 - 9.4.3 LNB (Low Noise Block Down Converter)

Telephony/VoIP

RSIM 10.0 — Differentiate and describe POTS vs. VoIP delivery. Identify and troubleshoot common issues

- 10.1 VoIP
 - 10.1.1 Compatibility issues
 - 10.1.2 Whole house distribution of VoIP
 - 10.1.3 Performance and Quality of Service (QoS)
- 10.2 POTS
 - 10.2.1 Cross talk
 - 10.2.2 Radio interference
 - 10.2.3 Dead ports
 - 10.2.4 REN (Ringer Equivalence Number)

RSIM 11.0 — Describe and define fundamentals of telephone systems.

- 11.1 Multi-line
- 11.2 Paging
- 11.3 Intercom
- 11.4 Voice messaging/Unified messaging

- 11.5 Door entry/Gate entry
- 11.6 PBX
- 11.7 Key systems
- 11.8 Telecommunication services (e.g., caller ID, voice mail, rollover)

Security and Surveillance Systems

RSIM 12.0 — Maintain, configure and troubleshoot basic security systems and applications

- 12.1 Define monitored and notification methods
 - 12.1.1 Phone line
 - 12.1.2 Cellphone
 - 12.1.3 Radio frequency
 - 12.1.4 IP based

RSIM 13.0 — Describe basic security terminology and apply installation procedures and methodologies

- 13.1 Installation and configuration of security panel
 - 13.1.1 Zone types
 - 13.1.2 Delays
 - 13.1.3 Battery backup and power supply requirements
- 13.2. Monitoring formats
 - 13.2.1 SIA and Contact ID
 - 13.2.2 4/2 and 3/1
- 13.3 Define types of peripherals and accessories
 - 13.3.1 Motion sensors
 - 13.3.2 Glass-break detectors
 - 13.3.3 Magnetic contacts
 - 13.3.4 Smoke fire (e.g., smoke detection, heat detection)
 - 13.3.5 Environmental sensors (e.g., carbon monoxide, gas, water, temperature)
 - 13.3.6 Vehicle detection
 - 13.3.7 Photoelectric beam devices
 - 13.3.8 Microwave beam devices
 - 13.3.9 Pressure sensors
 - 13.3.10 Sirens, strobes
 - 13.3.11 Security keypads
 - 13.3.12 Keyfobs
 - 13.3.13 Panic buttons
- 13.4 Describe security infrastructure types
 - 13.4.1 Wired, 22/4- standard power devices, 22/2- Magnetic contacts, 2 and 4 conductor fire wire (e.g., keypads, sounders, power supplies, smoke and fire

- detectors), Power supervision relays, Polarity reversal relays, Line seizure, End of line resistors)
- 13.4.2 Wireless
- 13.5 Identify access control devices and protocols
 - 13.5.1 Devices (e.g., keypads, card readers, biometric readers, proximity readers, door strikes, electronic deadbolts, magnetic locks)
 - 13.5.2 Protocols (e.g., Weigand)

RSIM 14.0 — Identify, configure, install, maintain and troubleshoot security and surveillance cameras

- 14.1 Camera types
 - 14.1.1 IP
 - 14.1.2 Analog
 - 14.1.3 Hybrid
- 14.2 Camera specifications
 - 14.2.1 Lens type
 - 14.2.2 Lux rating
 - 14.2.3 Resolution
 - 14.2.4 B&W vs. color
 - 14.2.5 IR illumination
 - 14.2.6 Power consumption
- 14.3 Camera applications
 - 14.3.1 Indoor/outdoor
 - 14.3.2 Day/night
 - 14.3.3 Fixed vs. animated
 - 14.3.4 Surveillance (e.g., door cams, nanny cams)
 - 14.3.5 Recording (e.g., DVR, triggers – internal vs. external detection)
 - 14.3.6 Sequencing vs. multiplexing

Home Control and Management

RSIM 15.0 — Identify user interfaces and their appropriate applications

- 15.1 Device types
 - 15.1.1 Remote controls
 - 15.1.2 Keypads
 - 15.1.3 Touchscreens
 - 15.1.4 Keyfobs
 - 15.1.5 Telephones
 - 15.1.6 Smartphones
 - 15.1.7 Cellphones
 - 15.1.8 PDAs
 - 15.1.9 Web tablets
 - 15.1.10 Personal computers

- 15.1.11 Laptops
- 15.2 Describe the importance of simplicity and ease of use as it pertains to the end user

RSIM 16.0 — Define and recognize control systems that integrate subsystems in the home. Describe their functionality, characteristics and purpose

- 16.1 Embedded control systems and personal computer (PC) based control systems
 - 16.1.1 Compatibility and interoperability issues

RSIM 17.0 — Identify commonly used communication protocols and their application

- 17.1 IR
- 17.2 Serial
- 17.3 IP
- 17.4 RF
- 17.5 Bluetooth
- 17.6 Contact closure
- 17.7 Inputs (zones)
- 17.8 Z-wave and Zigbee
- 17.9 ASCII
- 17.10 Proprietary protocols

RSIM 18.0 — Describe basic HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) terminology and install peripheral control devices

- 18.1 Control layer
 - 18.1.1 Compatibility
- 18.2 Communication layer
 - 18.2.1 Compatibility
 - 18.2.2 IP based, wireless, serial and proprietary
- 18.3 Zones HVAC
 - 18.3.1 Master slave configuration
 - 18.3.2 Microprocessor controlled configuration
- 18.4 Programmable thermostats
- 18.5 Importance of referencing manufacturerspecification and compatibility

RSIM 19.0 — Describe basic lighting terminology and install peripheral control devices

- 19.1 Identify lighting control applications
 - 19.1.1 Indoor and outdoor
 - 19.1.2 Centralized and distributed
 - 19.1.3 Dimming
 - 19.1.4 Scenes

- 19.1.5 Relay/switching
- 19.1.6 Occupancy/motion sensing
- 19.1.7 Time- and event-driven
- 19.1.8 Window treatments
- 19.1.9 Energy management
- 19.1.10 Security interface
- 19.1.11 Lighting connectivity
- 19.1.12 Motor speed control
- 19.2 Communication interface/bridge
- 19.2.1 Power line phase couplers
- 19.3 Identify lighting control protocols (Open standards)
- 19.3.1 Z-wave
- 19.3.2 ZigBee
- 19.3.3 Powerline carrier (X10 protocol/PLC)
- 19.3.4 UPB (Universal Powerline Bus)
- 19.4 Proprietary RF and proprietary low voltage
- 19.4.1 Recognize compatibility issues

RSIM 20.0 — Identify and install component power protection devices

- 20.1 Identify whole house protection options
 - 20.1.1 Surge suppression
 - 20.1.2 Power conditioning
- 20.2 Identify and install point protection
 - 20.2.1 Surge protectors (high voltage and ancillary low voltage devices: e.g., satellite, CATV, etc.)
 - 20.2.2 UPS (uninterruptible power supply)
 - 20.2.3 Power conditioning

Troubleshooting Methodology and Documentation

RSIM 21.0 — Identify and apply the fundamentals of troubleshooting and diagnostics

- 21.1 Use of testing equipment
 - 21.1.1 Multimeter
 - 21.1.2 Telephone buttset
 - 21.1.3 Toner
 - 21.1.4 Signal generation
 - 21.1.5 Cable tester
- 21.2 Refer to prior documentation
- 21.3 Demonstrate when to communicate with technical support and what information is relevant
- 21.4 Troubleshoot common wireless interference issues: infrared, radio frequency, etc.

- 21.5 Identify demarcation and responsibilities of associated trades and/or utilities

RSIM 22.0 — Given a scenario, demonstrate how to apply troubleshooting skills to integrate subsystems

- 22.1 Networking
- 22.2 Audio/video
- 22.3 Telephony
- 22.4 Security
- 22.5 Home control

RSIM 23.0 — List and describe the benefits of verification of installation

- 23.1 Properly label wires
- 23.2 Wire mapping
- 23.3 Importance of documenting work upon completion
 - 23.3.1 Input/output verification for all systems
 - 23.3.2 Document wire placement
- 23.4 Certification of cable installation

RSIM 24.0 — Deliver appropriate manuals and documentation to the end user upon completion of installation.

- 24.1 Select, archive and appropriately distribute critical system information: Passwords, access codes, user IDs, credentials, etc.

RSIM 25.0 — Ability to safely measure AC and DC voltages

- 25.1 Measure AC and DC voltages using a digital multimeter (DMM)
- 25.2 Measure AC and DC current using a digital multimeter (DMM)
- 25.3 Measure the resistance of a circuit consisting of resistors using a digital multimeter (DMM)

RSIM 26.0 — Ability to test basic analog and digital circuits and repair them

- 26.1 Setup and operate test equipment for analog circuits
- 26.2 Troubleshoot switching power supplies
- 26.3 Analyze motor and phase control circuits
- 26.4 Apply logical and systematic approach to troubleshooting analog circuit devices

RSIM 27.0 — Ability to use multimeters and oscilloscopes and interpret results

- 27.1 Solve basic trigonometric problems as applicable to electronics (prerequisite to AC)
- 27.2 Identify properties of an AC signal
- 27.3 Identify AC sources
- 27.4 Analyze and measure AC signals using oscilloscope, frequency meters and generators
- 27.5 Analyze, construct and troubleshoot AC capacitive circuits, AC inductive circuits, RLC circuits (series, parallel, complex) series and parallel resonant circuits, filter circuits and polyphase circuits
- 27.6 Analyze basic motor theory and operation
- 27.7 Analyze basic generator theory and operation
- 27.8 Set up and operate oscilloscopes frequency counters, signal generators, capacitor-inductor analyzers and impedance bridges for AC circuits
- 27.9 Analyze and apply principles of transformers to AC circuits

Committee Identified Academic Skills

The technical committee has identified that the following academic skills are embedded in this contest.

Math Skills

- Solve practical problems involving percentages.
- Solve single variable algebraic expressions.
- Solve multiple variable algebraic expressions.
- Make comparisons, predictions and inferences using graphs and charts.

Science Skills

- Plan and conduct a scientific investigation.
- Use knowledge of the particle theory of matter.
- Describe characteristics of types of matter based on physical and chemical properties.
- Use knowledge of physical properties (shape, density, solubility, odor, melting point, boiling point, color).
- Use knowledge of classification of elements as metals, metalloids and nonmetals.

- Understand Law of Conservation of Matter and Energy.
- Describe phases of matter.
- Describe and identify physical changes to matter.
- Use knowledge of potential and kinetic energy.
- Use knowledge of mechanical, chemical, and electrical energy.
- Use knowledge of heat, light and sound energy.
- Use knowledge of temperature scales, heat and heat transfer.
- Use knowledge of work, force, mechanical advantage, efficiency and power.
- Use knowledge of simple machines, compound machines, powered vehicles, rockets and restraining devices.
- Use knowledge of principles of electricity and magnetism.
- Use knowledge of static electricity, current electricity and circuits.
- Use knowledge of magnetic fields and electromagnets.
- Use knowledge of motors and generators.

Language Arts Skills

- Demonstrate comprehension of a variety of informational texts.
- Use text structures to aid comprehension.
- Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate reference materials.
- Use print, electronic databases and online resources to access information in books and articles.

Connections to National Standards

State-level academic curriculum specialists identified the following connections to national academic standards.

Math Standards

- Numbers and operations.
- Algebra.
- Geometry.
- Measurement.
- Data analysis and probability.
- Problem solving.
- Reasoning and proof.

Source: NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics. For more information, visit: <http://www.nctm.org>.

Science Standards

- Understands the structure and properties of matter.
- Understands the sources and properties of energy.
- Understands forces and motion.
- Understands the nature of scientific knowledge.
- Understands the nature of scientific inquiry.

Source: McREL compendium of national science standards. To view and search the compendium, visit: www2.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp.

Language Arts Standards

- Students read a wide range of print and nonprint texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment. Among these texts are fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary works.
- Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).
- Students adjust their use of spoken, written, and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
- Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.
- Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language and genre to create, critique and discuss print and nonprint texts.
- Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions,

and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and nonprint texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience.

Students use a variety of technological and information resources (e.g., libraries, databases, computer networks, video) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.

- Students use spoken, written and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion and the exchange of information).

Source: IRA/NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts. To view the standards, visit: www.ncte.org/standards.