

Eighth Grade Benchmarks Social Studies

Level 5 – Student performance exceeds year-end standard

Level 4 – Student performance meets year-end standard

Level 3 – Student performance approaches year-end standard

Level 2 – Student demonstrates limited performance to year-end standard

Level 1 – Student does not yet evidence understanding or application of skills related to year-end standard

NOTE: MPI and MPII performance levels are determined based on performance expectations at the time of reporting

Student Performance Standard	Level 1 Below	Level 2 Limited	Level 3 Approaches	Level 4 Meets	Level 5 Exceeds
Construct arguments according to grade level requirements.	Constructs and evaluates arguments with adult guidance and support.	Evaluates the credibility of some sources with scaffolding; gives examples of claims and counterclaims; claims may not be clearly or logically explained.	Evaluates credibility of some sources; uses evidence from some relevant sources to create claims and counterclaims; arguments loosely based on claims; evaluation tends to be one-sided.	Evaluates credibility of sources; uses evidence from relevant sources to create claims and counterclaims; constructs arguments based on claims; evaluates strengths and limitations of arguments.	In addition to Level 4 performance, creates arguments that are persuasive or insightful based on clarity of language, reasoning, or visual supports.
Construct explanations according to grade level requirements.	Constructs and evaluates explanations with adult guidance and support.	Constructs explanations based on relevant information and details; explanations may lack structure or specificity.	Constructs some explanations using sequencing, examples, and mostly relevant information and details; evaluation may be limited or one-sided.	Constructs explanations using reasoning, correct sequence, examples, and details with relevant information and data; evaluates strengths and limitations of explanations.	In addition to meeting Level 4 performance, explanations include visuals (i.e., graphs, charts, media) or additional explanatory sections that clarify conclusions.
Present arguments and explanations.	Presents arguments and explanations with adult guidance and support.	Presents summaries of an argument or explanation; summaries may be too inclusive, too limited, or lack appropriate focus based on audience.	Presents adaptations of some arguments and explanations to reach a selected audience using appropriate technologies;	Presents adaptations of arguments and explanations in order to reach specific audiences through print, oral, and digital technologies.	In addition to Level 4 performance, presentations incorporate technologies or deliver information in such a manner as to be persuasive or compelling.
Evidence understanding of	Performance in content-specific	Evidences limited performance in	Evidences performance in	Evidences performance in	Evidences performance in

grade level content.	activities is below grade level expectations (see content-specific rubrics).	content-specific activities to grade level expectations (see content-specific rubrics).	content-specific activities that approaches grade level expectations (see content-specific rubrics).	content-specific activities that meets grade level expectations (see content-specific rubrics).	content-specific activities that exceeds grade level expectations (see content-specific rubrics).
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