Secondary English Language Arts
English IV Public Overview

English IV
1st 9 Weeks
Assessments MAP Growth Reading: Sept. 9-10

What are we learning?
How can I help at home?

Unit 1 Overview: Against the Wind
Genre Focus: Literary Texts and Narrative Writing
Essential Question: How are leaders forged from circumstance?

Timeline: August 11 – October 8
Priority Standards: 12.1A, 12.5B, 12.5C, 12.6A, 12.6B, 12.6C, 12.6D, 12.7B, 12.8F, 12.9A, 12.9B, 12.9C, 12.9D
Link to TEKS/Parent Guide: Link to TEKS

Unit Overview: In this unit, students will explore how leaders emerge in response to challenges, responsibilities, and changing circumstances through British literature and narrative writing. Students will analyze how authors develop themes through characterization, conflict, plot, and setting while examining moral dilemmas faced by influential literary figures. Through close reading, discussion, and literary analysis, students will evaluate how historical and cultural contexts shape leadership and decision-making. Students will also strengthen narrative writing skills by crafting original pieces that incorporate effective rhetorical techniques and purposeful storytelling. As a culminating experience, students will create analytical and narrative writing that explores the qualities and circumstances that shape leadership.

At-Home Connections:

- Discuss modern leaders in business, government, athletics, or community organizations and identify the circumstances that contributed to their success.
- Watch a historical or biographical documentary together and evaluate how challenges shaped the leader's decisions and character.
- Ask your senior to interview a trusted adult about a difficult leadership decision they have faced and compare the experience to characters studied in class.
- Create a family "leadership hall of fame" and debate which qualities are most important for effective leadership in today's world.

2nd 9 Weeks
Assessments

What are we learning?

How can I help at home?

Unit 2 Overview: What's Next?
Genre Focus: Informational Text and Inquiry
Essential Question: How can we transform the future?

Timeline: October 19-December 18
Priority Standards: 12.7D(i), 12.7D(ii), 12.8A, 12.9B, 12.9C, 12.9D, 12.11A, 12.11E, 12.11I
Link to TEKS/Parent Guide: Link to TEKS

Unit Overview: In this unit, students will investigate how education, innovation, technology, and personal choices can shape the future. Through informational texts, inquiry, and research, students will evaluate authors' arguments, analyze evidence, assess source credibility, and synthesize information from multiple viewpoints. Students will explore real-world issues related to career pathways, postsecondary opportunities, personal growth, and societal change. As researchers and writers, students will develop inquiry questions, conduct research, and communicate findings through informational writing and presentations. As a culminating experience, students will create a research-based product that explores possibilities for shaping individual and collective futures.

At-Home Connections:

- Explore college, technical school, military, apprenticeship, or career websites together and compare potential pathways after graduation.
- Ask your student to create a "Future Me" presentation outlining goals for the next five years and the steps needed to achieve them.
- Discuss emerging technologies, careers, or industries and predict how they may change society over the next decade.
- Work together to create a practical post-graduation budget that includes housing, transportation, food, savings, and entertainment expenses.

3rd 9 Weeks

Assessments

TELPAS Window: Feb. 15-Mar. 26
MAP Growth Reading: Jan. 27-28

What are we learning?
How can I help at home?

Unit 3 Overview: Uncovering Truth
Genre Focus: Argumentative Text, Rhetorical Analysis, and Inquiry
Essential Question: What distinguishes fact from fiction?

Timeline: January 6 – March 4
Priority Standards: 12.7E(i), 12.7E(ii), 12.7E(iii), 12.8A, 12.8B, 12.9B, 12.9C, 12.9D, 12.11E, 12.11G, 12.11J

Link to TEKS/Parent Guide: Link to TEKS

Unit Overview: In this unit, students will examine how information is created, shared, and interpreted in a world filled with competing claims and perspectives. Through argumentative texts, rhetorical analysis, and inquiry-based research, students will evaluate credibility, identify bias, recognize logical fallacies, and analyze the effectiveness of persuasive techniques. Students will investigate how media, technology, and communication shape public understanding of truth and misinformation. Through discussion, writing, and research, students will learn to construct well-supported arguments and critically evaluate information from diverse sources. As a culminating experience, students will create and present an evidence-based argument that demonstrates strong reasoning and research skills.

At-Home Connections:

- Challenge your student to fact-check a trending social media post using multiple reliable sources and share the results.
- Compare coverage of the same event from several news outlets and discuss how language, evidence, and perspective influence understanding.
- Play a "real or misleading?" game by evaluating headlines and determining what additional evidence is needed before accepting a claim.
- Discuss a current issue at home and require participants to support opinions with credible evidence rather than assumptions or emotions.

4th 9 Weeks

Assessments

TELPAS Window: Feb. 15-Mar. 26
STAAR Reading: April 12-14 (1 day)
Reading MAP: May 12-13

What are we learning?
How can I help at home?

Unit 4 Overview: Sculpting Reality
Genre Focus: Multi-Genre and Literary Analysis Research Writing
Essential Question: What is the power of story?

Timeline: March 15 – May 27
Priority Standards: 12.3A, 12.4H, 12.4G, 12.4E, 12.5A, 12.8A, 12.9A, 12.9B, 12.9C, 12.11I
Link to TEKS/Parent Guide: Link to TEKS

Unit Overview: In this unit, students will explore how stories shape perspectives, preserve cultural values, challenge assumptions, and influence society. Through literary, informational, and multimedia texts, students will analyze author's craft, synthesize ideas across genres, and examine how narratives impact individuals and communities. Students will engage in literary analysis research while reflecting on the power of storytelling in their own lives and in the broader world. Through writing, discussion, and presentation, students

will communicate complex ideas to authentic audiences. As a culminating experience, students will develop, revise, and present a polished literary analysis or multi-genre project that demonstrates their growth as readers, thinkers, writers, and communicators.

At-Home Connections:

- Ask your student to interview a family member and record a meaningful life story, then discuss how storytelling preserves family history and identity.
- Watch a film adaptation of a classic text and compare how the same story is communicated through different mediums.
- Encourage your senior to create a graduation reflection, podcast episode, or digital story that captures lessons learned throughout high school.
- Start a family book, movie, or podcast discussion and debate which stories have had the greatest impact on personal beliefs, goals, or perspectives.