6–8 Instructional Schema: ELA/Literacy Skills per Grade Level

Tier 1 instructional reference | California Common Core State Standards for ELA/Literacy

ELA DOMAIN	Sixth Grade 34 skills	Seventh Grade 34 skills	Eighth Grade 37 skills
Foundational Skills & Word Study	• Determine word meanings using context clues • Analyze Greek and Latin roots and affixes • Interpret similes, metaphors and personification • Distinguish denotation from connotation • Use reference tools to verify meanings • Apply academic and domain vocabulary • Analyze word choice and its effect on tone	• Use context, roots and affixes to clarify meaning • Analyze figurative expressions in texts • Distinguish shades of meaning and connotations • Interpret domain-specific vocabulary • Consult reference materials for word usage • Examine word relationships and analogies • Apply vocabulary strategies to complex texts	• Clarify multiple-meaning words using context • Analyze Greek and Latin roots and affixes • Interpret irony, puns and allusions • Analyze analogies and word relationships • Distinguish subtle connotative differences • Verify meanings and usage with references • Apply precise academic vocabulary • Analyze word choice in complex texts
Reading & Comprehension	• Cite textual evidence for analysis and inference • Determine theme or central idea and its development • Summarize texts objectively • Analyze plot development and character responses • Explain how text sections contribute to structure • Analyze author viewpoint and purpose • Trace claims and assess supporting evidence • Compare texts across genres and formats • Integrate information from multiple sources	• Cite several pieces of textual evidence • Analyze themes and central ideas over a text • Summarize complex texts objectively • Analyze interactions of characters, events and ideas • Explain how text structure shapes meaning • Compare narrator and character perspectives • Evaluate reasoning and sufficiency of evidence • Compare print and multimedia presentations • Analyze authors’ treatment of the same topic	• Cite the strongest evidence for interpretations • Analyze theme and central idea development • Summarize literary and informational texts • Explain how dialogue and incidents advance plot • Analyze effects of structure and point of view • Interpret figurative and connotative meanings • Evaluate claims, reasoning and evidence • Recognize conflicting or irrelevant evidence • Compare portrayals across texts and media
Writing & Research	• Write claims supported by reasons and evidence • Explain topics with relevant facts and details • Write narratives with effective sequencing • Organize introductions, transitions and conclusions • Revise and edit for clarity and conventions • Conduct focused research using credible sources • Quote and paraphrase without plagiarism • Use textual evidence to support analysis • Publish and collaborate using technology	• Write arguments acknowledging opposing claims • Support claims with logical, relevant evidence • Develop informative texts with organized analysis • Write narratives with dialogue and pacing • Use transitions and an appropriate formal style • Revise and edit for coherence and accuracy • Research focused questions using credible sources • Quote and paraphrase with standard citations • Use textual evidence for analysis and research	• Write arguments addressing counterclaims fairly • Use relevant evidence from credible sources • Develop explanations with coherent analysis • Write narratives using dialogue and reflection • Organize ideas with transitions and conclusions • Revise writing for clarity, style and conventions • Research questions using multiple sources • Evaluate source credibility and accuracy • Integrate quotations and cite sources correctly • Use textual evidence in written analysis
Language, Speaking & Listening	• Participate in evidence-based discussions • Build on others’ ideas and ask questions • Interpret information from diverse media • Evaluate a speaker’s claims and reasons • Present findings in logical sequence • Use eye contact, volume and clear delivery • Adapt speech to audience and task • Apply grammar, usage and punctuation rules • Use academic language in presentations	• Collaborate in discussions using text evidence • Ask probing questions and clarify ideas • Analyze key ideas presented through media • Evaluate speaker reasoning and evidence • Present claims and findings coherently • Use multimedia to clarify presentations • Adapt speech to purpose and audience • Apply grammar, punctuation and spelling • Use precise academic vocabulary	• Discuss complex topics using textual evidence • Connect ideas and invite elaboration • Reconsider viewpoints in light of evidence • Analyze the purpose of multimedia messages • Evaluate speakers’ arguments and evidence • Present findings with logical organization • Integrate visuals to strengthen presentations • Adapt speech for different audiences • Use grade-level grammar and conventions • Use precise academic and domain language

Skill counts reflect the instructional summary bullets shown, not the total number of California state standards.