9–12 Instructional Schema: ELA/Literacy Skills per Grade Level

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

ELA DOMAIN	Ninth Grade 31 skills	Tenth Grade 31 skills	Eleventh Grade 31 skills	Twelfth Grade 31 skills
Foundational Skills & Word Study	• Interpret technical and figurative vocabulary • Use context, roots and affixes to infer meanings • Analyze diction and its effects on tone • Distinguish connotation and denotation • Interpret figures of speech in context • Verify meanings with reference resources • Apply academic and disciplinary vocabulary	• Analyze cumulative effects of word choices • Interpret complex figurative and technical terms • Distinguish subtle shades of connotation • Apply Greek and Latin word-part knowledge • Explain how diction shapes perspective • Verify precise meanings and usage • Use discipline-specific academic language	• Analyze subtle meanings and ambiguities • Interpret symbolism and rhetorical language • Examine how diction shapes purpose and tone • Apply etymology and contextual word analysis • Distinguish nuanced connotations • Verify specialized vocabulary with sources • Use advanced academic vocabulary precisely	• Interpret ambiguity, irony and symbolism • Evaluate the rhetorical impact of word choices • Analyze nuanced connotation and tone • Apply roots, context and word origins • Clarify complex disciplinary terminology • Verify precise meaning and appropriate usage • Use sophisticated vocabulary purposefully
Reading & Comprehension	• Cite strong evidence for textual interpretations • Analyze themes and central ideas over a text • Summarize complex texts objectively • Analyze character development and interactions • Examine text structure and point of view • Analyze rhetoric, diction and tone • Evaluate claims, reasoning and evidence • Compare texts on related themes or topics	• Cite thorough evidence, including inferences • Trace complex themes and central ideas • Analyze character, structure and author choices • Evaluate perspective and cultural context • Examine cumulative effects of language • Identify fallacies and unsupported claims • Analyze rhetorical appeals and purpose • Compare texts and multimedia portrayals	• Cite thorough evidence and note uncertainty • Analyze interacting themes and central ideas • Evaluate structure, characterization and setting • Examine rhetorical and stylistic choices • Compare interpretations of literary works • Analyze historical and cultural perspectives • Evaluate complex arguments and evidence • Synthesize ideas across demanding texts	• Cite evidence for sophisticated interpretations • Analyze layered themes and unresolved ideas • Evaluate authorial choices and structure • Interpret competing readings of a text • Assess rhetoric, assumptions and reasoning • Analyze historical and cultural contexts • Synthesize multiple authoritative sources • Read complex texts independently
Writing & Research	• Write arguments with precise claims and evidence • Address opposing claims with clear reasoning • Explain complex topics with relevant details • Craft narratives with purposeful sequences • Organize writing with coherent transitions • Revise for clarity, style and conventions • Research using credible print and digital sources • Integrate quotations and citations accurately	• Develop arguments with fair counterclaims • Support reasoning with sufficient evidence • Explain complex concepts in organized sections • Craft narratives with effective pacing • Maintain formal style and objective tone • Revise for precision and coherence • Synthesize information from credible sources • Document sources and avoid plagiarism	• Develop nuanced claims and counterclaims • Support analysis with authoritative evidence • Explain complex ideas with precise organization • Write narratives with purposeful structure • Use varied syntax and effective transitions • Revise for rhetorical effectiveness • Conduct sustained inquiry into complex topics • Synthesize sources with formal citations	• Construct sophisticated evidence-based arguments • Evaluate and address competing claims fairly • Develop complex explanations and analyses • Write narratives with purposeful craft • Use precise language and varied syntax • Revise for coherence, tone and impact • Conduct independent sustained research • Synthesize and cite authoritative sources
Language, Speaking & Listening	• Prepare for evidence-based discussions • Build on and challenge ideas respectfully • Evaluate information across media formats • Analyze a speaker’s claims and rhetoric • Present findings with logical organization • Use digital media to clarify key ideas • Adapt speech to audience and purpose • Apply standard English conventions	• Initiate and sustain academic discussions • Respond thoughtfully to diverse viewpoints • Evaluate conflicting evidence across media • Analyze speakers’ rhetoric and reasoning • Present coherent evidence-based claims • Use multimedia strategically • Adapt language to task and audience • Use precise grammar and academic language	• Lead collaborative evidence-based dialogue • Probe reasoning and clarify perspectives • Evaluate multiple viewpoints and media • Assess speakers’ evidence and rhetoric • Present complex claims with clear reasoning • Integrate visuals to strengthen meaning • Adapt formal speech to varied contexts • Apply advanced conventions and vocabulary	• Facilitate reasoned academic discussions • Synthesize diverse and competing perspectives • Critically evaluate information across media • Assess rhetoric, assumptions and evidence • Deliver persuasive, well-supported presentations • Use multimedia with purpose and precision • Adapt speech for academic and civic settings • Use sophisticated language and conventions

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