

GRADE 8 LANGUAGE ARTS

LANGUAGE

The purpose of the eighth grade Language program is to provide a setting where students learn about and practice appropriate use of formal and informal English in writing and speaking.

Discussion

Students will:

- use agreed-upon rules for informal and formal discussions in small and large groups.

Questioning, Listening, and Contributing

Students will:

- pose questions, listen to the ideas of others, and contribute their own information or ideas in group discussions or interviews in order to acquire new knowledge.
- integrate relevant information gathered from group discussions and interviews for reports.

Oral Presentation

Students will:

- make oral presentations that demonstrate appropriate consideration of audience, purpose, and the information to conveyed.
- give oral presentations to different audiences for various purposes, showing appropriate changes in delivery (gestures, vocabulary, pace, visuals) and using language for dramatic effect.
- create a scoring guide based on categories supplied by the teacher (content, presentation style) to prepare and assess their presentations.
- give formal and informal talks to various audiences and for various purposes using appropriate level of formality and rhetorical devices.

Vocabulary and Concept Development

Students will:

- understand and acquire new vocabulary and use it correctly in reading and writing.
- determine the meaning of unfamiliar words using context clues (definition, example).
- determine the meaning of unfamiliar words using knowledge of common Greek and Latin roots, suffixes, and prefixes.
- determine pronunciations, meanings, alternate word choices, and parts of speech or words using dictionaries and thesauruses.
- determine the meaning of unfamiliar words using context clues (contrast, cause and effect).
- determine the meaning of unfamiliar words by using knowledge of common Greek and Latin roots, suffixes, and prefixes.

- determine pronunciations, meaning, alternate word choices, parts of speech, or etymologies of words using dictionaries and thesauruses.

Structure and Origins of Modern English

Students will:

- analyze standard English grammar and usage and recognize how its vocabulary has developed and been influenced by other languages.
- identify the eight basic parts of speech (noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, adjective, conjunction, preposition, interjection).
- expand or reduce sentences (adding or deleting modifiers, combining or decombining sentences).
- identify verb phrases and verb tenses.
- recognize that a word performs different functions according to its position in the sentence.
- identify correct mechanics (apostrophes, quotation marks, comma use in compound sentences, paragraph indentations) and correct sentence structure (elimination of sentence fragments and run-ons).
- recognize the basic patterns of English sentences (noun-verb; noun-verb-noun; noun-verb-noun-noun; noun-linking verb-noun).
- distinguish phrases from clauses.
- recognize the makeup and function of prepositional phrases.
- identify simple, compound, and complex sentences.
- recognize appropriate use of pronoun reference.
- identify correct mechanics (comma after introductory structures), correct usage (pronoun reference), and correct sentence structure (complete sentences, properly places modifiers).
- employ grammar and usage rhetorically combining words, including, reordering, and reducing sentences.
- describe the origins and meanings of common words, as well as of foreign words or phrases used frequently in written English.

Formal and Informal English

Students will:

- describe, analyze, and use appropriately formal and informal English.
- write stories using a mix of formal and informal language.
- identify differences between oral and written language patterns.
- analyze the language styles of different characters in literary works.

Materials

- Wordly Wise 5 vocabulary book
- Houghton Mifflin grammar book

Instruction:

- Student portfolios
- Assigned writing with rubrics
- John Collins Focus Correction Areas
- Sharing of piece- format of presenting written work
- Vocabulary collection sheets
- Book reviews
- Multi genre research paper
- Creative writing
- Mini lessons
- Alternate story endings
- Peer editing
- Group work
- Presentations
- Teacher guided instruction
- Conferencing
- Writer's workshop

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