

Oregon Standards for Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects

Grades 6-8 Standards

June 2019



Introduction to the Oregon Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy

Preparing Oregon's Students

When Oregon adopted the Common Core in October 2010, our state joined other states in the pursuit of a common, standards-based education for our students, kindergarten through high school. Common standards can increase the likelihood that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the work place. Because skillful reading, writing, language use, and speaking and listening are similar across the states, common standards make sense.

Utilizing Content Area Expertise

Instruction in the reading and writing standards customized for literacy in history/social studies and also other subjects, in addition to instruction in the English language arts standards, will make a critical difference for students. That is because the Standards for grade 6 and above are predicated on all teachers using their content area expertise to help students meet the particular challenges of reading and writing in their respective fields.

It is important to note that the 6-12 literacy standards are not meant to replace content standards in history/social studies and other subjects but rather to supplement them. Because Social Science Analysis in Oregon already includes a number of these standards, the cross-referenced reading and writing standards, linked for instruction, are likely to support what social sciences teachers are already doing.

Incorporating a Unique Design

The College and Career Readiness (CCR) Anchor Standards, the “backbone” of the Standards, describe the literacy skills, which all students need when they graduate. The grade-specific standards describe the literacy skills, corresponding to the CCR Anchor Standards by number, which all students need when they finish each grade. Keeping the college and career focus at the forefront of Kindergarten through grade 11/12 implementation is critical; that is why the CCRs are placed before the grade-specific standards in the CCSS. It is this unique design that supports the preparation of all students to be successful in school, from the beginning of school, and proficient in the Essential Skills of Reading, Writing, and Speaking and Listening required for an Oregon Diploma.

Focusing on Key Features

- Reading: Text complexity and the growth of comprehension
- Writing: Text types, responding to reading, and research
- Speaking and Listening: Flexible communication and collaboration
- Language: Conventions, effective use, and vocabulary

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College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading

The grades 6-12 standards define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. Each grade-specific standard corresponds to the same College and Career Readiness (CCR) Anchor Standard below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

Key Ideas and Details

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Craft and Structure

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

Note on Range and Content of Student Reading: *To become college and career ready, students must grapple with works of exceptional craft and thought whose range extends across genres,*

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cultures, and centuries. Such works offer profound insights into the human condition and serve as models for students' own thinking and writing. Along with high-quality contemporary works, these texts should be chosen from among seminal U.S. documents, the classics of American literature, and the timeless dramas of Shakespeare. Through wide and deep reading of literature and literary nonfiction of steadily increasing sophistication, students gain a reservoir of literary and cultural knowledge, references, and images; the ability to evaluate intricate arguments; and the capacity to surmount the challenges posed by complex texts.

Reading Standards: Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects

The Reading standards specific to the content areas begin at grade 6; standards for K–5 reading in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects are integrated into the K–5 Reading standards. The CCR anchor standards and high school standards in literacy work in tandem to define college and career readiness expectations—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity.

Grades 6-8 Reading Informational Text (6-8.RST)

Key Ideas and Details

- 6-8.RST.1 Analyze what science and technical texts say explicitly as well as inferentially; cite several pieces of textual evidence to support the analysis.*
- 6-8. RST.2 Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- 6-8. RST.3 Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks.

Craft and Structure

- 6-8. RST.4 Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to *grades 6–8 texts and topics*.
- 6-8. RST.5 Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to an understanding of the topic.
- 6-8. RST.6 Analyze the author's purpose in providing an explanation, describing a procedure, or discussing an experiment in a text.

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Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- 6-8. RST.7 Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually.*
- 6-8. RST.8 Distinguish among facts, reasoned judgment based on research findings, and speculation in a text.
- 6-8. RST.9 Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

- 6-8. RST.10 By the end of grade 8, read and comprehend science/technical texts in the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

The grade 6-12 standards define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. Each grade-specific standard corresponds to the same College and Career Readiness (CCR) Anchor Standard below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

Text Types and Purposes

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

Production and Distribution of Writing

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

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Research to Build and Present Knowledge

7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Range of Writing

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Note on Range and Content of Student Writing: *For students, writing is a key means of asserting and defending claims, showing what they know about a subject, and conveying what they have experienced, imagined, thought, and felt. To be college- and career- ready writers, students must take task, purpose, and audience into careful consideration, choosing words, information, structures, and formats deliberately. They need to know how to combine elements of different kinds of writing—for example, to use narrative strategies within argument and explanation within narrative—to produce complex and nuanced writing. They need to be able to use technology strategically when creating, refining, and collaborating on writing. They have to become adept at gathering information, evaluating sources, and citing material accurately, reporting findings from their research and analysis of sources in a clear and cogent manner. They must have the flexibility, concentration, and fluency to produce high-quality first-draft text under a tight deadline as well as the capacity to revisit and make improvements to a piece of writing over multiple drafts when circumstances encourage or require it.*

Writing Standards

The Writing standards specific to the content areas begin at grade 6; standards for K–5 writing in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects are integrated into the K–5 Writing standards. The CCR anchor standards and high school standards in literacy work in tandem to define college and career readiness expectations—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity.

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Grades 6-8 Writing (6-8.WHST)

Text Types and Purposes

- 6-8.WHST.1 Write arguments focused on *discipline-specific content*.
- 6-8.WHST.1a Introduce claim(s) about a topic or issue, acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
- 6-8.WHST.1b Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant, accurate data and evidence that demonstrate an understanding of the topic or text, using credible sources.
- 6-8.WHST.1c Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
- 6-8.WHST.1d Establish and maintain an appropriate style for content, purpose, and audience.*
- 6-8.WHST.1e Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
- 6-8.WHST.2 Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes.
- 6-8.WHST.2a Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories as appropriate to achieving purpose; include formatting, graphics, and multimedia when useful in aiding comprehension.*
- 6-8.WHST.2b Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- 6-8.WHST.2c Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- 6-8.WHST.2d Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- 6-8.WHST.2e Establish and maintain an appropriate style for content, purpose, and audience.*
- 6-8.WHST.2f Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
- 6-8.WHST.3 (See note; not applicable as a separate requirement)

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Note: *Students' narrative skills continue to grow in these grades. The Standards require that students be able to incorporate narrative elements effectively into arguments and informative/explanatory texts. In history/social studies, students must be able to incorporate narrative accounts into their analyses of individuals or events of historical import.*

Production and Distribution of Writing

- 6-8.WHST.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- 6-8.WHST.5 With guidance and support, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.*
- 6-8.WHST.6 Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas clearly and efficiently.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

- 6-8.WHST.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
- 6-8.WHST.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
- 6-8.WHST.9 Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Range of Writing

- 6-8.WHST.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

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