

K – 12 Language Arts Program Enduring Understandings

Writing

Effective writers...

1. ...communicate using appropriate forms for various purposes.
2. ...think, plan, draft, respond, revise, edit, and publish.
3. ...consider audience before and while writing.
4. ...employ proper mechanics, usage, and grammar.
5. ...reflect on their writing and strive to improve their writing skills.
6. ...develop their voice and style.

Research

Effective researchers...

1. ...begin with essential guiding questions.
2. ...understand that the research process is inherently circular and includes the planning, gathering, analyzing, organizing, synthesizing, and evaluating of information.
3. ...select appropriate resources and evaluate information based on accuracy, validity, authority, and relevance.
4. ...draw conclusions, create meaning, and construct new knowledge.
5. ...use information and technology ethically and responsibly by documenting sources appropriately.
6. ...apply research skills to authentic, real-world issues and contexts.

Communication

Effective communicators...

1. ...understand that communication is an exchange between the sender and the receiver.
2. ...adjust delivery skills to purpose, audience, and occasion.
3. ...select appropriate media to enhance presentations.
4. ...focus and negotiate in order to create valuable contributions.
5. ...are active, critical, and responsible listeners.
6. ... recognize that communication is essential to understanding themselves and others.

K – 12 Language Arts Program Essential Questions

Writing

1. Why do writers write?
2. How do writers begin?
3. What strategies should I use to craft effective writing?
4. How do I improve my writing through reflection and revision?
5. Why is it important to write well?
6. What are the different purposes for writing and how are they achieved?
7. What distinguishes good writing, and what makes it worth reading?

Research

1. Why research? What is the value of research?
2. What can be discovered/created through research?
3. How do I formulate effective guiding questions?
4. Where do I find relevant information? How can I use technology to help me?
5. How do I evaluate information to determine its quality and reliability?
6. What do I do if my research points me in a new direction?
7. How can I use the librarian to help me efficiently navigate the research process?
8. How do I know when I have enough information? What do I do with all of it?
9. Why do I give credit to my sources? How do I do that?
10. How will my researching skills enable me to be an agent of change?
11. How will research help me in the real world?

Communication

1. What is communication?
2. Why is effective communication important?
3. How do effective communicators adjust their delivery techniques for purpose, audience, and occasion?
4. What media will best enhance a presentation?
5. In what ways is communication collaborative?
6. What makes a good listener?