

Texas Ninth Grade ELA Guidelines Checklist

English I

Strand 1: Developing and Sustaining Foundational Language Skills

- ☐ Use knowledge of phonics and word analysis (decoding, syllabication, root words, affixes)
- ☐ Use context to determine or clarify the meaning of unfamiliar or multiple-meaning words
- ☐ Use print or digital reference materials to clarify and validate meanings of words

Strand 2: Comprehension Skills

- ☐ Establish purpose for reading
- ☐ Make inferences and use evidence to support understanding
- ☐ Summarize texts
- ☐ Make connections to personal experiences, other texts, and the world
- ☐ Analyze and evaluate the author's choices and literary techniques

Strand 3: Response Skills

- ☐ Respond to literature and informational texts using text evidence
- ☐ Paraphrase and summarize texts
- ☐ Defend or challenge authors' claims using relevant text evidence

Strand 4: Multiple Genres

- ☐ Analyze the structure and elements of poetry (figurative language, sound devices, form)
- ☐ Analyze the structure and elements of drama (dialogue, stage directions, soliloquy)
- ☐ Analyze literary nonfiction and informational texts
- ☐ Compare and contrast themes and characters across multiple texts

Strand 5: Author's Purpose and Craft

- ☐ Analyze the author's purpose and message within a text
- ☐ Evaluate how the author's use of language contributes to tone, voice, and mood



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- ☐ Examine rhetorical devices (e.g., repetition, parallelism, rhetorical questions)
- ☐ Analyze how authors develop characters and plot

Strand 6: Composition

- ☐ Write literary texts (e.g., personal narratives, fiction)
- ☐ Write expository essays with clear central ideas and logical organization
- ☐ Write argumentative texts with claims, evidence, and counterarguments
- ☐ Revise drafts for clarity, organization, and coherence
- ☐ Edit drafts using standard grammar, punctuation, and spelling

Strand 7: Inquiry and Research

- ☐ Develop questions for formal and informal inquiry
- ☐ Gather relevant information from credible sources
- ☐ Evaluate reliability and validity of sources
- ☐ Synthesize information and present in appropriate formats
- ☐ Use proper citations and avoid plagiarism

