



# FAMILY GUIDE TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

## Grade 11/12



Academic standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. The **Kansas English Language Arts (KELA)** standards focus on reading, writing, speaking, listening and communication development. Your student's mastery of these academic standards ensures they are well prepared for life after high school graduation.

### Example KELA expectations:

**Determine** two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.

**Analyze** nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.

**Evaluate** the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in his or her

exposition or argument.

**Analyze** foundational documents of historical and literary significance for their themes, purposes and rhetorical features.

**Analyze** multiple interpretations of a story, drama or poem, evaluating how each version interprets the source text.

**Work** with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making; set clear goals and

The KELA standards are a collection of skills that students should learn and be able to perform at advancing levels in order to meet the five foundational practice for language arts.

Language arts foundational practices:

- Speak, read and listen appropriately in all subject areas.
- Seek to understand different viewpoints.
- Use knowledge gained from reading and writing to help solve problems.
- Create different versions of texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Self-regulate and monitor growth in writing, speaking, reading and listening.

deadlines; and establish individual roles as needed.

**Respond** thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task.

**Make** strategic use of digital media in presentations.

**Use** narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

**Write** informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization and analysis of content.

## What might this look like in a classroom?

Students in a language arts classroom should be able to ...

**Write, speak, read** and **listen** in all content areas to build knowledge.

**Set goals** and monitor their progress.

**Solve** problems.

**Create** meaning.

**Think** critically about real-world issues.

**Develop** a deep understanding of the world using foundational literacy practices.

**Build** on their literacy skills from prior years.

## How can language arts help me in the real world?

### In your job ...

- You will need to **understand** other points of view.
- You will need to **problem solve**.
- You will need to **communicate** with others effectively.

### In your life ...

- You will need to **gather information** to make good decisions.
- You will need to **form opinions** and **support them** through action.
- You will need to know how to **express yourself through speaking** and **writing**.

## Outside Resources

- **Learning Heros:** <https://bealearninghero.org/learning-tools/parents/>
- **Parents' Guide to Students Success, National PTA:** <https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success>
- **Kansas Vision for Education, Kansas State Department of Education:** <http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Communications-and-Recognition-Programs/Vision-Kansans-Can>
- **Parent Toolkit:** <https://www.parenttoolkit.com/>
- **English Language Arts, KSDE:** [www.ksde.org/ela](http://www.ksde.org/ela)

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