

Course Outline: English 8

Textbooks: Elements of Writing; Holt, Rinehart, Winston
The Language of Literature; McDougal Littell

Objectives:

- Students will be able to demonstrate comprehension of a variety of texts with emphasis on demonstrating connections between parts of a text, between several texts, and between texts and experiences. They will be able to make extensions and applications of texts and to examine texts critically and evaluatively.
- Students will be able to shape language to communicate effectively, using both speech as well as a series of written initial plans, multiple drafts and informed feedback and response, while applying appropriate conventions of language usage and grammar.
- Students will be able to critically analyze visual media messages.

(Specific course standards for 8th grade English may be found under *Instruction* on the DoDEA website: <http://www.odedodea.edu>).

Units of Study:

- Writing and Grammar—
 - * Narrative Writing/Autobiographical Essays
 - * Informational Paragraph and Essay Writing
 - * Compare/Contrast Writing (Paragraphs and Essays)
 - * Language Usage with Emphasis on Verb Tense Consistency, Pronoun Usage, Parallel Structure, and Word Choice
 - * Composition Revision Strategies and Grammar/Punctuation Review with Introduction of Clauses
- Literature and Vocabulary:
 - * The Short Story. Emphasis on Reading Strategies, Literary Terms, Vocabulary Context Clues, and Common Word Bases and Prefixes
 - * Historical Fiction and Nonfiction in Literature. Emphasis on Support of 8th Grade American History Study of African-American History, Native American History, and the Civil War
 - * The Novel (Outside reading of one book per month as part of this study; a study of The Diary of Anne Frank may also be included).
- Poetry. Emphasis on Elements and Meaning of Poems and on Student Writing of Poems.

Writing and Grammar:

1. Narrative Writing in Autobiographical Essays.
Emphasis: Description (vividness, originality, and specificity of language); Concentrated Review of Thesaurus Usage; Development of Theme and Setting; Dialogue Usage; Ordering of Details; Introductory Hooks.

2. Informational Paragraph and Essay Writing.
Emphasis/ Paragraph: Topic Sentence; Supporting Statements (Number and Relevancy); Unity (with different types of transitions); Closure (five types of “clinchers”).

Emphasis/Essay Writing: Introductory Paragraph with Controlling Statement; Transitions between paragraphs; Closing Paragraph.

3. Writing That Makes Comparisons and Draws Contrasts (Paragraphs and Essays).
Emphasis: Identifying Similarities and Differences and Giving Examples of Each from Each Source.

4. Language Usage.
 1. Emphasis: Verb Tense Consistency; Pronoun Usage (need for antecedents);
 2. Parallel Structure

5. Composition Revision Strategies and Grammar Review.
Emphasis: Different Categories of Sentence Type: Function and Structure; Distinctions Between Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences; Different Types of Clauses; Four Types of Sentence Structure (according to number and type of clauses) and Their Punctuation Rules; Prepositional Phrases and Subject/Verb Sentence Agreement With Same; Sentence Combining and Eliminating Redundancy.

Literature and Vocabulary:

1. The Short Story.
Emphasis on Reading Strategies of Making Connections; Making Predictions; Clarifying; Evaluating Text/Making Judgments; Making Inferences; Relating Cause and Effect; Noting Relevant Details; Identifying Theme; Understanding Figurative Language; Using Vocabulary Context Clues and Common Word Bases and Prefixes for Vocabulary Development; Understanding Allusions; Appreciating Dialogue and Understanding Idioms; Paraphrasing; Summarizing; Comparing and Contrasting Texts.

Emphasis on Literary Concepts of Inference; Irony; Theme; Point of View; Plot Development; Foreshadowing; Character Development; Science Fiction; Fantasy; Mood and Tone; Denotation and Connotation; Style; Description; Simile and

Metaphor; Stereotyping; Functional and Non-Functional Settings; Chronological Order; Flashback; Allusion; Symbol; Biography and Autobiography; Hyperbole.

2. Historical Fiction and Nonfiction in Literature.

Emphasis: Support of 8th Grade American History Study of African-American History, Native American History, and the Civil War.

3. The Novel (Outside reading of one novel per month as part of this study; a study of The Diary of Anne Frank may be included).

4. (Possibly) Poetry

Emphasis: Elements of Poetry; Analysis of Meaning of Poetry; Composition of Poems by Students/ Literary Concepts: Types and Patterns of Rhyme and Rhythm; Alliteration; Assonance and Consonance; Imagery; Personification; Extended Metaphor.