Unit 1: American Voices

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Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Belleville Public Schools

Curriculum Guide

English 1- Grade 9

Unit 1- American Voices

Belleville Board of Education

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Unit Overview

The unit **American Voices,** consists of various genres that answer the essential question and go along with the theme of this unit. The stories, poems, and novels included in the unit expose students to literature that includes different voices and perspectives on what it means to be an American. In the unit, student will interpret the various elements of literature, analyze character behavior, respond to literature through written responses and class discussions, and demonstrate the ability to think critically and problem solve.

Enduring Understanding

- 1. American voices provides students with another perspective on the topic of what it means to be an American.
- 2. Reflection, both mentally and in written form is important.
- 3. Stories that present ideas and themes of an American voice, help the reader absorb the experience and the wisdom to come up with his/her own definition.

Essential Questions

- What does it mean to be "American"?
- How is an American identity created?
- Why is the writer's choice in words and tone important?
- What elements of a story capture the reader's attention?

Exit Skills

By the end of Grade 9, ELA Unit 1, the student should be able to:

- Read, comprehend, analyze and critique everyday texts
- Understand and apply written and oral conventions to everyday interactions
- Become active readers, good listeners and critical thinkers in everyday situations

New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS-S)

LA.RL.9-10.1	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

LA.RL.9-10.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).
LA.RL.9-10.9	Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work (e.g., how Shakespeare treats a theme or topic from mythology or the Bible or how a later author draws on a play by Shakespeare).
LA.RI.9-10.1	Accurately cite strong and thorough textual evidence, (e.g., via discussion, written response, etc.) and make relevant connections, to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RI.9-10.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).
LA.RI.9-10.7	Analyze various perspectives as presented in different mediums (e.g., a person's life story in both print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.
LA.W.9-10.2.D	Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic.
LA.W.9-10.2.E	Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
LA.W.9-10.3.C	Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.
LA.W.9-10.5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
LA.W.9-10.8	Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation (MLA or APA Style Manuals).
LA.W.9-10.9.B	Apply grades 9–10 Reading standards to nonfiction informational (e.g., "Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning").
LA.SL.9-10.1.A	Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.
LA.SL.9-10.1.C	Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions.
LA.SL.9-10.4	Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically. The content, organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
LA.L.9-10.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.L.9-10.2.B	Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation.
LA.L.9-10.2.C	Spell correctly.

LA.L.9-10.4.A	Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
LA.L.9-10.5.A	Interpret figures of speech (e.g., euphemism, oxymoron) in context and analyze their role in the text.
LA.L.9-10.5.B	Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.
LA.9-10.W.9-10.1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence. Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

Interdisciplinary Connections

SOC.9-12.1.1.2	Analyze how change occurs through time due to shifting values and beliefs as well as technological advancements and changes in the political and economic landscape.
SOC.9-12.1.3.2	Evaluate sources for validity and credibility and to detect propaganda, censorship, and bias.
SOC.9-12.1.4.1	Take a position on a current public policy issue and support it with historical evidence, reasoning, and constitutional analysis in a written and/or oral format.

Learning Objectives

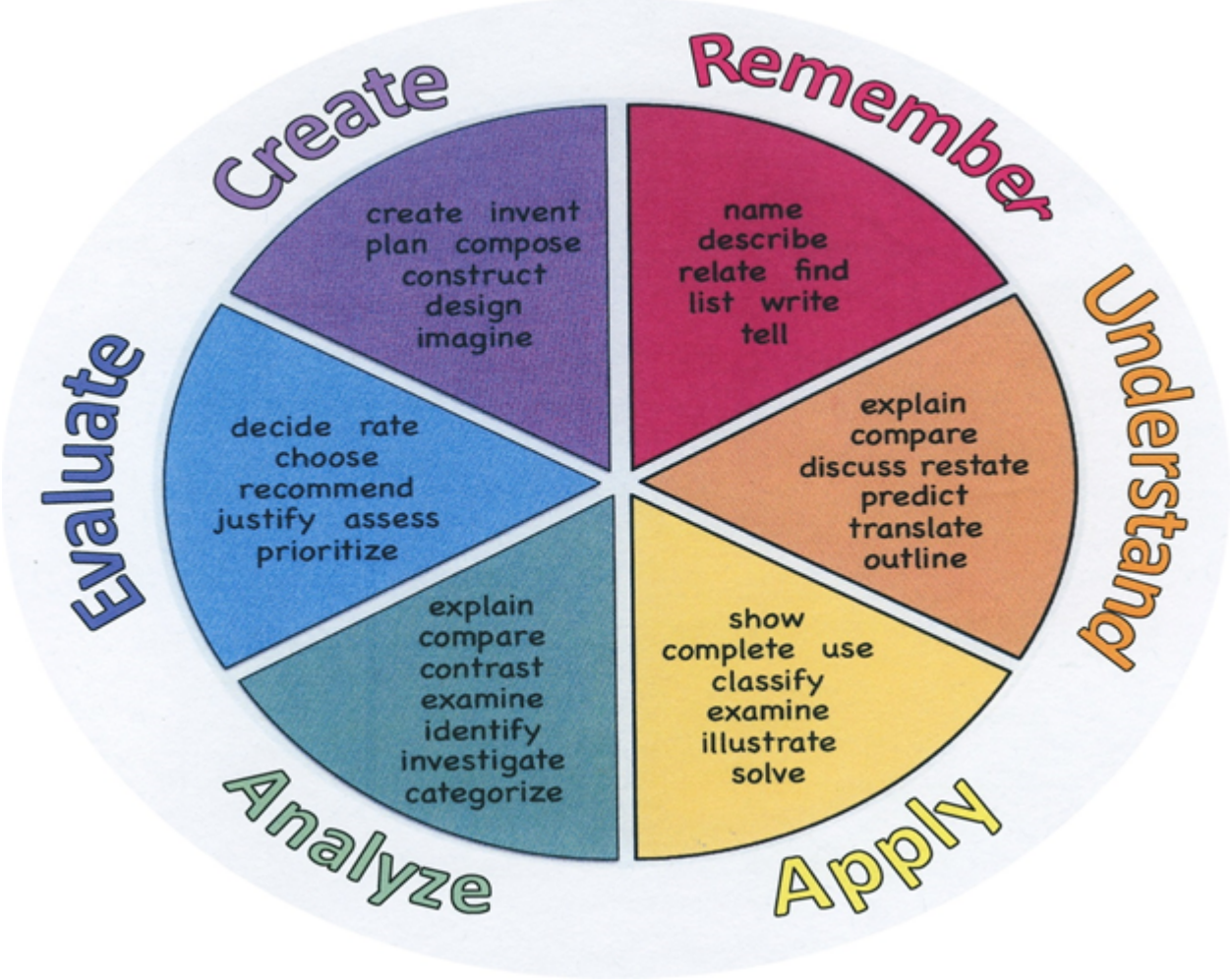
Effective Learning Objectives Used in Lesson Planning:

- Recognize ways that readers make meaning from a text
- Understand the use of context clues to determine a word's meaning
- Interpret literary elements in short stories with special emphasis on plot, climax, character, setting, irony, point of view, and theme
- Apply a variety of reading strategies
- Respond to literature (class discussion, writing assignments, and journals)
- Learn and use new vocabulary
- Plan, draft, revise and edit written assignments

Action Verbs: Below are examples of action verbs associated with each level of the Revised Bloom's Taxonomy.

Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
Choose	Classify	Choose	Categorize	Appraise	Combine
Describe	Defend	Dramatize	Classify	Judge	Compose
Define	Demonstrate	Explain	Compare	Criticize	Construct
Label	Distinguish	Generalize	Differentiate	Defend	Design
List	Explain	Judge	Distinguish	Compare	Develop
Locate	Express	Organize	Identify	Assess	Formulate
Match	Extend	Paint	Infer	Conclude	Hypothesize
Memorize	Give Examples	Prepare	Point out	Contrast	Invent
Name	Illustrate	Produce	Select	Critique	Make
Omit	Indicate	Select	Subdivide	Determine	Originate
Recite	Interrelate	Show	Survey	Grade	Organize
Select	Interpret	Sketch	Arrange	Justify	Plan
State	Infer	Solve	Breakdown	Measure	Produce
Count	Match	Use	Combine	Rank	Role Play
Draw	Paraphrase	Add	Detect	Rate	Drive

Outline Point Quote Recall Recognize Repeat Reproduce	Represent Restate Rewrite Select Show Summarize Tell Translate Associate Compute Convert Discuss Estimate Extrapolate Generalize Predict	Calculate Change Classify Complete Compute Discover Divide Examine Graph Interpolate Manipulate Modify Operate Subtract	Diagram Discriminate Illustrate Outline Point out Separate	Support Test	Devise Generate Integrate Prescribe Propose Reconstruct Revise Rewrite Transform



Suggested Activities & Best Practices

Example: Students will read 9-11 poems in groups and answer thematic questions for the poem. The groups will then share their work with the rest of the class and a whole group discussion will take place in response to the presentation.

Student Centered Learning: Students should either have already selected groups or groups of their choosing and we ready to

jigsaw or answer higher order thinking discussion questions related to the theme or topic of the piece of literature being discussed.

Use of Rubrics: After discussing an assignment, allow students to create what they believe to be a fair rubric for assessing the assignment. This allows the students to have a say in how they will be graded as well as accountablity for the assignment.

Starting classes with a "Do Now" activity: Using a connection to life question that relates to the piece of literature will make the students be able to connect to the text and jump start to discussion.

Allowing students to choose their own projects: Having a vairety of projects that the students can choose from helps address all learning types. This will allow the students to choose the project they feel they can be most successful in completing.

Brainstorming: This helps in the writing process because it will allow the student to know if they are grasping the topic.

Assessment Evidence - Checking for Understanding (CFU)

Example: The students will take a multiple choice test on Pearson that provides higher order thinking questions on "Rules of a Game" from Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan.

On Pearson Online Portal:

Unit Quizzes - summative assessment

Selection Quizzes - summative assessment

Unit Tests - summative assessment

Selection Tests - summative assessment

Various worksheets to go along with selections - formative assessment

Department Made:

Quarterly Assessments/Common Benchmarks - summative assessment

Unit/Selection Review - formative assessment

Teacher Made:

Web-Based Assessments - alternative assessment

Various Assignments/Projects/Essay Topics - alternative assessment

Evaluation Rubrics - formative assessment

Exit Tickets - formative assessment

- Admit Tickets
- Anticipation Guide
- Common Benchmarks
- Compare & Contrast
- Create a Multimedia Poster
- DBQ's

- Define
- Describe
- Evaluate
- Evaluation rubrics
- Exit Tickets
- Explaining
- Fist- to-Five or Thumb-Ometer
- Illustration
- Journals
- KWL Chart
- Learning Center Activities
- Multimedia Reports
- Newspaper Headline
- Outline
- Question Stems
- Quickwrite
- Quizzes
- Red Light, Green Light
- Self- assessments
- Socratic Seminar
- Study Guide
- Surveys
- Teacher Observation Checklist
- Think, Pair, Share
- Think, Write, Pair, Share
- Top 10 List
- Unit review/Test prep
- Unit tests
- Web-Based Assessments
- Written Reports

Primary Resources & Materials

Textbook (Physcial Copy and Online Copy): *My Perspectives- English Language Arts Grade 9*

Grammar: Heath

Literature:

Whole-Class Learning:

A Quilt of a Country by Anna Quindlen

The Immigrant Contribution from A Nation of Immigrants by John F. Kennedy

Small-Group Learning:

With a Little Help from My Friends from Funny in Farsi by Firoozeh Dumas

Immigrant Picnic by Gregory Djanikian

*Other Independent Leaning pieces of literature in the digital textbook

Novels Options: (Availble in digital library)

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

My Antonia by Willa Cather

Writing:

Nonfiction Narrative

Grammar:

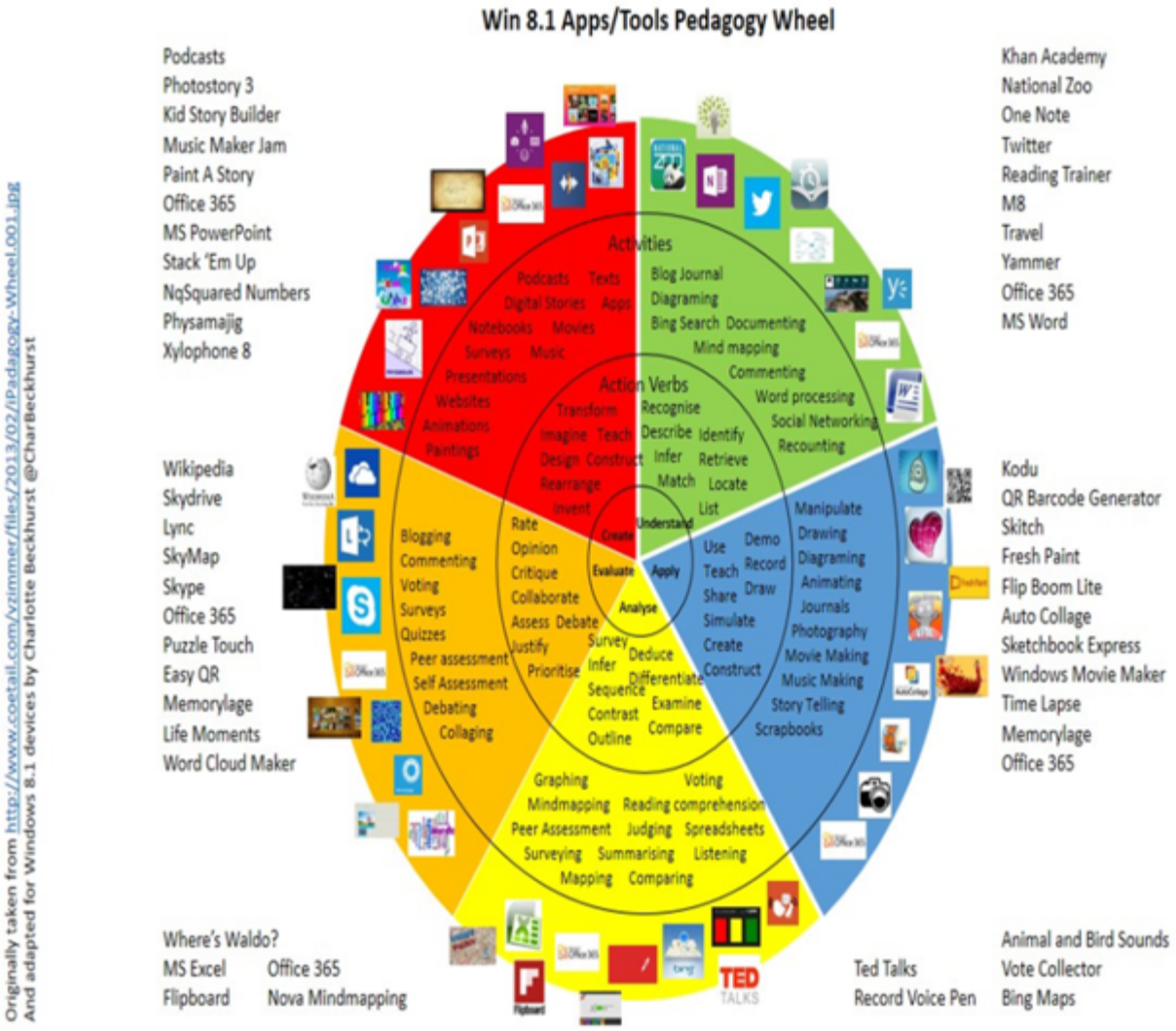
Pronouns, Adjectives, Adverbs

Ancillary Resources

- Teacher made study packets for corresponding pieces of literature
- Supplimental materials availble on Pearson digital textbook

Technology Infusion

- Google Classroom
- Slide Share presentation
- Online text
- Creating a podcast



Alignment to 21st Century Skills & Technology

Mastery and infusion of **21st Century Skills & Technology** and their Alignment to the core content areas is essential to student learning. The core content areas include:

- English Language Arts
- Science and Scientific Inquiry (Next Generation)
- Social Studies, including American History, World History, Geography, Government and Civics, and Economics
- Technology

CAEP.9.2.12.C.4	Analyze how economic conditions and societal changes influence employment trends and future education.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.5	Research career opportunities in the United States and abroad that require knowledge of world languages and diverse cultures.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.9	Analyze the correlation between personal and financial behavior and employability.
TECH.8.1.12.A	Technology Operations and Concepts: Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems and operations.
TECH.8.1.12.A.CS1	Understand and use technology systems.
TECH.8.1.12.C.CS2	Communicate information and ideas to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.

21st Century Skills/Interdisciplinary Themes

- Communication and Collaboration
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical thinking and Problem Solving
- ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) Literacy
- Information Literacy
- Life and Career Skills
- Media Literacy

CAEP.9.2.12.C.4	Analyze how economic conditions and societal changes influence employment trends and future education.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.5	Research career opportunities in the United States and abroad that require knowledge of world languages and diverse cultures.

21st Century Skills

- Civic Literacy
- Environmental Literacy
- Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- Global Awareness
- Health Literacy

CAEP.9.2.12.C.4	Analyze how economic conditions and societal changes influence employment trends and future education.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.5	Research career opportunities in the United States and abroad that require knowledge of world languages and diverse cultures.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.9	Analyze the correlation between personal and financial behavior and employability.

Differentiation

Example: Students will read the poem "Immigrant Picnic" and highlight all of the figurative language that corrolates with the theme of "What it means to be an American".

Allow students additional time

Create a study guide

Differentiations:

- Small group instruction
- Small group assignments
- Extra time to complete assignments
- Repeat directions
- Use manipulatives
- Center-based instruction
- Study guides
- Teacher reads assessments allowed
- Rephrase written directions
- Multisensory approaches
- Additional time
- Preview vocabulary
- Preview content & concepts
- Behavior management plan
- Highlight text
- Student(s) work with assigned partner
- Visual presentation
- Assistive technology
- Auditory presentations
- Small group setting

Hi-Prep Differentiations:

- Alternative formative and summative assessments
- Games and tournaments
- Group investigations
- Guided Reading
- Independent research and projects
- Interest groups
- Learning contracts
- Leveled rubrics
- Literature circles
- Multiple intelligence options
- Multiple texts
- Project-based learning
- Problem-based learning
- Stations/centers
- Tiered activities/assignments
- Varying organizers for instructions

Lo-Prep Differentiations

- Choice of books or activities

- Exploration by interest
- Flexible grouping
- Goal setting with students
- Jigsaw
- Mini workshops to re-teach or extend skills
- Open-ended activities
- Varied journal prompts
- Varied supplemental materials

Special Education Learning (IEP's & 504's)

Example: During the multiple choice test on "Immigrant Picnic", the students who have an IEP that specifies extra time will recieve extra time to complete the assessment.

Center activities

Print copies of assignments in advance

- printed copy of board work/notes provided
- additional time for skill mastery
- assistive technology
- behavior management plan
- Center-Based Instruction
- check work frequently for understanding
- computer or electronic device utilizes
- extended time on tests/ quizzes
- have student repeat directions to check for understanding
- highlighted text visual presentation
- modified assignment format
- modified test content
- modified test format
- modified test length
- multi-sensory presentation
- multiple test sessions
- preferential seating
- preview of content, concepts, and vocabulary
- Provide modifications as dictated in the student's IEP/504 plan
- reduced/shortened reading assignments
- Reduced/shortened written assignments
- secure attention before giving instruction/directions

- shortened assignments
- student working with an assigned partner
- teacher initiated weekly assignment sheet
- Use open book, study guides, test prototypes

English Language Learning (ELL)

Example: Students will watch news footage of 9-11 while they are reading the poems about the event to help their understanding of the tragedy.

- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarif
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning;
- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- decreasing the amount of workpresented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers
- using computer word processing spell check and grammar check features
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests

At Risk

Example: Students will watch news footage of 9-11 while they are reading the poems about the event to help their understanding of the tragedy

Mark correct work only

Allow student to modify topic and suggest alterations to assignment

- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning
- allowing students to select from given choices

- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- collaborating (general education teacher and specialist) to modify vocabulary, omit or modify items to reflect objectives for the student, eliminate sections of the test, and determine how the grade will be determined prior to giving the test.
- decreasing the amount of workpresented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- marking students' correct and acceptable work, not the mistakes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers
- using authentic assessments with real-life problem-solving
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify

Talented and Gifted Learning (T&G)

Example: Students will conduct research and present to the class, in a debate form, about what their definiation of the theme, "What does it mean to be an American" means to them.

- Above grade level placement option for qualified students
- Advanced problem-solving
- Allow students to work at a faster pace
- Cluster grouping
- Complete activities aligned with above grade level text using Benchmark results
- Create a blog or social media page about their unit
- Create a plan to solve an issue presented in the class or in a text
- Debate issues with research to support arguments
- Flexible skill grouping within a class or across grade level for rigor
- Higher order, critical & creative thinking skills, and discovery
- Multi-disciplinary unit and/or project
- Teacher-selected instructional strategies that are focused to provide challenge, engagement, and growth opportunities
- Utilize exploratory connections to higher-grade concepts
- Utilize project-based learning for greater depth of knowledge

Sample Lesson

Unit Name: American Voices

NJSLS: *LA.9-10.RL.9-10.1Cite strong and thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text*

leaves matters uncertain.

Interdisciplinary Connection:World Languages, World History

Statement of Objective: Analyze tone and diction in The Joy Luck Club; Interpret the meaning of words used in the text, analyze characters, and synthesize the plot with setting of the story.

Anticipatory Set/Do Now: Write a statement about the content of the selection, based on its title.

Learning Activity:

- Do Now
- Collaborative group/In-class reading
- Note-taking/Writing
- Lecture/PowerPoint
- CFU

Student Assessment/CFU's:

- Exit Ticket

Materials:

- Literature textbook
- Supplimental materials from digital online resources

21st Century Themes and Skills:

- Global Perspectives
- Civic Literacy

Differentiation/Modifications:

- Pairing oral instructions with visuals
- Provide assignment ahead of time
- Provide study guides

Integration of Technology:

- SmartTV
- Google Classroom
- Google Slides

LA.RL.9-10.1	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.