

# 04\_Making Your Mark

Content Area: **ELA**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Full Year**  
Length: **8 weeks (40 Days)**  
Status: **Published**

## **General Overview, Course Description or Course Philosophy**

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The New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts / Literacy lay out a vision of what it means to be a literate person in the twenty-first century. Indeed, the skills and understandings students are expected to demonstrate have wide applicability outside the classroom or workplace. Students who meet the Standards readily undertake the close, attentive reading that is at the heart of understanding and enjoying complex works of literature. They habitually perform the critical reading necessary to pick carefully through the staggering amount of information available today in print and digitally. They actively seek wide, deep, and thoughtful engagement with high-quality literary and informational texts that build knowledge, enlarge experience, and broaden worldviews. They reflexively demonstrate the cogent reasoning and use of evidence that is essential to both private deliberation and responsible citizenship in a democratic republic. In short, students who meet the Standards develop the skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening that are the foundation for any creative and purposeful expression in language.

## **OBJECTIVES, ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS, ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS**

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Essential Question: What persuasive techniques can be used to enhance a writer's argument

-Persuasive reading and writing empower individuals to articulate their viewpoints effectively, fostering the development of strong communication skills essential for personal and professional success.

-Effective persuasion involves a thoughtful analysis of audience, context, and purpose, recognizing that tailoring persuasive messages can influence attitudes and inspire action.

-The critical evaluation of persuasive texts enables readers and writers to discern between credible arguments and fallacious reasoning, contributing to informed decision-making and media literacy.

-Persuasive reading and writing serve as tools for advocacy, enabling individuals to advocate for change and the promotion of positive values in society.

## **CONTENT AREA STANDARDS**

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W.6.10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, metacognition/self correction, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

W.6.7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.

W.6.8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources.

W.6.9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

A. Apply grade 6 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres [e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories] in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics”).

B. Apply grade 6 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not”)

W.6.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, voice and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)

W.6.5. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

W.6.6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of three pages in a single sitting.

RI.6.1. Cite textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

RI.6.2. Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

RI.6.3. Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text

(e.g., through examples or anecdotes).

SL.6.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

A. Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.

B. Follow rules for collegial discussions, set specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.

C. Pose and respond to specific questions with elaboration and detail by making comments that contribute to the topic, text, or issue under discussion.

D. Review the key ideas expressed and demonstrate understanding of multiple perspectives through reflection and paraphrasing.

SL.6.2. Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.

SL.6.3. Deconstruct a speaker's argument and specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.

LA.RI.6.1	Cite textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
LA.RI.6.2	Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
LA.RI.6.3	Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).
LA.RI.6.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.
LA.RI.6.5	Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas.
LA.RI.6.6	Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.
LA.RI.6.7	Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
LA.RI.6.8	Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.

LA.RI.6.9	Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) one author's presentation of events with that of another (e.g., a memoir written by and a biography on the same person).
LA.RI.6.10	By the end of the year read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above, with scaffolding as needed.
LA.W.6.1.A	Introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly.
LA.W.6.1.B	Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
LA.W.6.1.C	Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons.
LA.W.6.1.D	Establish and maintain a formal/academic style, approach, and form.
LA.W.6.1.E	Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented.
LA.W.6.2.A	Introduce a topic and organize ideas, concepts, and information, using text structures (e.g., definition, classification, comparison/contrast, cause/effect, etc.) and text features (e.g., headings, graphics, and multimedia) when useful to aiding comprehension.
LA.W.6.2.B	Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
LA.W.6.2.C	Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
LA.W.6.2.D	Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
LA.W.6.2.E	Establish and maintain a formal/academic style, approach, and form.
LA.W.6.2.F	Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.
LA.W.6.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of three pages in a single sitting.
LA.SL.6.3	Deconstruct a speaker's argument and specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.
LA.SL.6.4	Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate speaking behaviors (e.g., eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation).
LA.SL.6.5	Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, images, music, sound) and visual displays in presentations to clarify information.
LA.L.6.1.A	Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (subjective, objective, possessive).
LA.L.6.1.B	Use intensive pronouns (e.g., myself, ourselves).
LA.L.6.1.C	Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.
LA.L.6.1.D	Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents).
LA.L.6.1.E	Recognize variations from standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking, and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language.
LA.L.6.2.A	Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements.
LA.L.6.2.B	Spell correctly.
SOC.6.3.8.CivicsDP.3	Use historical case studies and current events to explain why due process is essential for the protection of individual rights and maintenance of limited government.
SOC.6.1.12.HistoryCA.14.c	Determine the influence of multicultural beliefs, products (i.e., art, food, music, and literature), and practices in shaping contemporary American culture.

## **RELATED STANDARDS (Technology, 21st Century Life & Careers, ELA Companion Standards are Required)**

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TECH.9.4.8.CI Creativity and Innovation

TECH.9.4.8.DC Digital Citizenship

## **STUDENT LEARNING TARGETS**

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Refer to the 'Declarative Knowledge' and 'Procedural Knowledge' sections.

### **Declarative Knowledge**

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Students will understand that:

- Nonfiction texts, such as speeches, essays, and memoirs, provide firsthand accounts and analysis of historical and contemporary struggles for equity, fairness, and equality.
- Nonfiction texts present factual information about real people, events, and topics, aiming to inform, educate, or persuade readers.
- Nonfiction texts can take various forms, including articles, essays, biographies, memoirs, speeches, and documentary films.
- Authors of nonfiction texts employ rhetorical devices and strategies to engage readers, convey their message effectively, and support their arguments.
- An argument essay presents a clear and logical claim or position on a specific issue or topic, supported by evidence and reasoning.
- The thesis statement in an argument essay provides a concise summary of the writer's position and serves as the central focus of the essay.
- Effective argument essays present well-structured arguments with an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

### **Procedural Knowledge**

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Students will be able to:

- support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- provide an objective summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgements.
- explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.
- determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings.
- determine a theme or central idea of the text and how it is conveyed through particular details.

- describe how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.
- describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes.
- cite textual evidence from the text.
- by the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.
- compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they "see" and "hear" when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.
- analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
- analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.
- explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.
- interpret information presented in diverse media and formats and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.
- write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.
- pose and respond to specific questions with elaboration and detail by making comments that contribute to the topic, text, or issue under discussion.
- come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material.
- follow rules for collegial discussions, set specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.

## **EVIDENCE OF LEARNING**

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Refer to the 'Formative Assessments' and 'Summative Assessments' sections.

## **Alternate Assessments**

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- Teacher/Student Conferences
- Oral Presentations
- Multimedia Presentations
- Portfolio Assessments

## **Summative Assessments**

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Argument Essay, Constructed responses

## **Formative Assessments**

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Close reading assessments, conferencing, author study discussions, reflection writing, questioning, response/reflection writing

## **Benchmark Assessments**

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- iXL
- Edulastic

## **RESOURCES (Instructional, Supplemental, Intervention Materials)**

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Author Study on Lois Lowry

Various short argumentative texts -Core Texts

[Common Lit](#)

[Scope Magazine](#)

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS**

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Social Studies

- Current Events-Students will examine how blogs, editorial and social media enable individuals to advocate for change and the promotion of positive values in society. This will lead into writing persuasive essays. Current Events-
- Ethics
- Social Justice
- Social relationships among people

## Technology/Multimedia

- Audio/visual media analysis
- Google
- Media Literacy
- Educational tech applications

## **ACCOMMODATIONS & MODIFICATIONS FOR SUBGROUPS**

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See link to Accommodations & Modifications document in course folder.