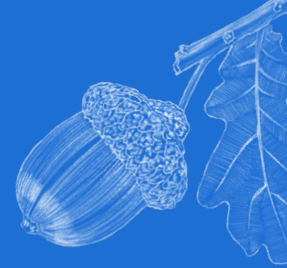
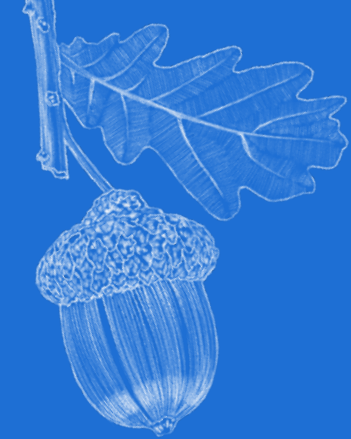




ELA Core Curriculum

for **GRADE 12**

 **ThinkCERCA™**



ThinkCERCA's Core Curriculum was designed to help students develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies to thrive in a global economy.

To be the problem-solvers, leaders, and job-creators of our future, students need to be able to consume complex information, think about it critically, and express their own points of view effectively.

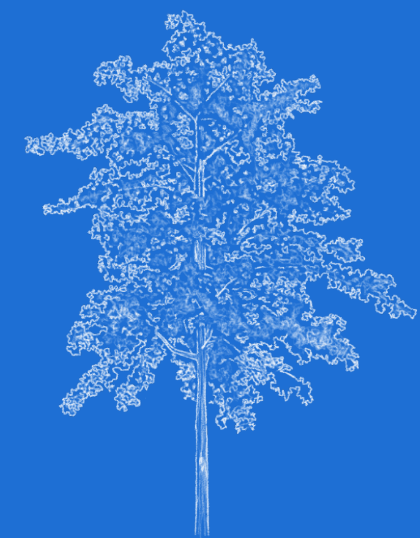
Guiding Values in Our Design:

- Student engagement
- Comprehensive coverage of standards
- Ease of implementation
- Support for best practices in reading and writing routines
- High-quality authentic texts
- Deeper learning opportunities

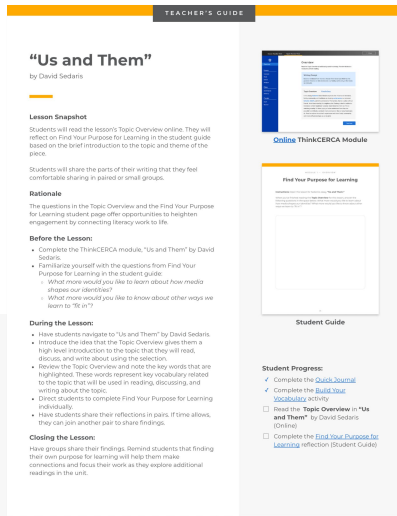
Each grade level invites students to engage in close-reading, analysis and collaboration, formal speaking and listening opportunities, and writing, research, and multimedia portfolio development – all grounded in our research-backed CERCA framework.

Ultimately, we espouse a pedagogy of confidence.

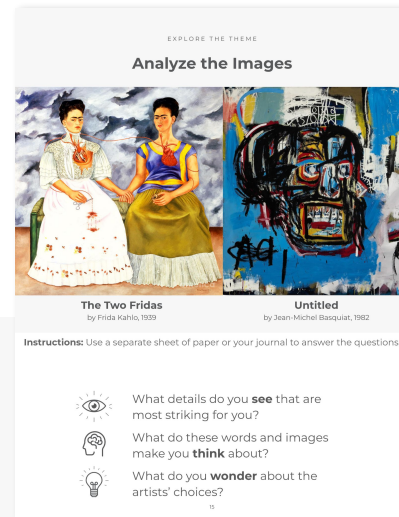
We truly believe that confident young people are the keys to the success of each and every one of our communities. This program is designed to help us spark courageous thinking!



Course Resources



Teacher's Guide



Student Guide

Course Overview

- Roadmap for course including assessment blocks (BOY, MOY, EOY) and unit snapshots
- Portfolio assessments listed to show progression by unit throughout the year
- Assessment practices aligned to SAT and ACT

Student Guide

- Previews for all unit features: goal-setting, modules, speaking/listening activities, portfolio, and reflection
- Offline activities for each module for each step: Before Your Read, Read, Analyze, Write

Unit Planner

- At-a-glance view of the unit lesson and activities included

Differentiation Guides

- Additional instructional support and ready-made modified materials for both online and offline activities through each unit

Teacher's Guide with Facilitator Notes

- Step-by-step guide for unit instruction
- Module preview with summary, unit connection, and key knowledge, understandings, and skills
- Facilitator notes with detailed talking points

Direct Instruction / Skills Practice

- Comprehensive coverage of key skills + concepts
- Flexible implementation options for teacher-led, small group, or self-paced implementation
- Embedded assessment
- Additional leveled skills practice

360 Degrees of Text

Grade 12 Core ELAR

Comprehensive Assessment Resources



Benchmarks



Continuous Embedded Assessment



AP/ACT/SAT Aligned Practice

1

Where Are You Going Next?

How do the expectations of society influence the decisions you make? Explore models of narrative nonfiction that examine growing up and becoming one's own person.

Portfolio: Narrative Essay Writing

2

How Do Robots Help Us?

Should robots and other forms of artificial intelligence be used to further our communities? Explore these questions through argumentative texts and a variety of other pieces across genres.

Portfolio: Argumentative Essay Writing

3

What Can We Do to Make a Positive Impact?

How do people choose to live their lives regardless of circumstance? What is the significance of symbolism in our world view? Explore these questions through a variety of texts.

Portfolio: Literary Analysis

4

How Do We Live Sustainably?

How does a community live sustainably? How are local communities using the resources around them to build a sound future? Delve into informational texts as well as research and visuals to better understand how communities are becoming more sustainable.

Portfolio: Research-Based Pitch Deck

360 Degrees of Text

Grade 12 Core ELAR

5

What Happens When Civic Duty and Values Collide?

When conflict arises, how can it be used to support new and better opportunities? Explore these questions through a full-length drama and a variety of other pieces across genres.

Portfolio: Cause and Effect Essay Writing

6

How Can You Afford the Life You Want?

What are the risks and rewards of various post-secondary choices? How do you decide what you want to do and how to pay for it? Explore readings about financing life after high school.

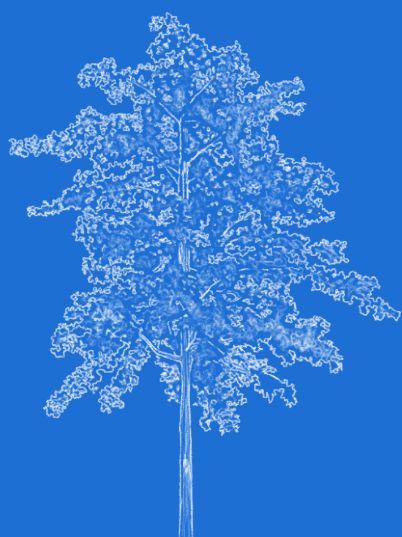
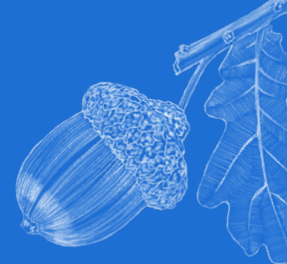
Portfolio: Research Paper/Financial Planning Document

7

How Does Fiction and Poetry Help Us Arrive at Truths?

How do writers at various points in history use their literary predecessors as springboards for new mediums? Explore short stories and memoirs about the moments when we have to make defining choices in uncertain times.

Portfolio: Comparative Literary Analysis



Sample Units



Where Are You Going Next?

Grounding students in the experiences of others similar to and different from them allows students to develop self-awareness, social awareness, and empathy, while giving students opportunities to express their own ideas in a variety of formats.

Mentor Texts



Personal Narrative
On the Rainy River

By Tim O'Brien



Personal Narrative
The Party

By Ava Kadishson Schieber



Personal Narrative
Prom

By Hasan Minhaj



Essay
Where I Lived, and What I Lived For

By Henry David Thoreau

Read Across Genres



Multimedia
My Identity is My Superpower

By America Ferrera



Poetry
We Are Many

By Pablo Neruda



Poetry
Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird

By Wallace Stevens



Informational Text
How People Learn to Become Resilient

By Maria Konnikova



Informational Text
Teenagers, Anxiety Can Be Your Friend

By Lisa Damour

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Story Elements: Analyze character, setting, plot
- Author's Craft: Narrative techniques
- Theme: Use evidence to determine theme
- Poetry: Compare details and imagery using the SOAPSTone strategy
- Informational Texts: Determine and trace a central idea through details; Summarize

Use Language and Grammar

- Connotation and Denotation
- Sentence Structure: *but, because, so*
- Parts of Speech: Adjectives
- Punctuation: Non-restrictive elements

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Formal Socratic discussion

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a personal narrative
- Writing process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Error Analysis
- Test Prep: Prediction

Essential Question

How do the expectations of society influence the decisions you make?

How Do Robots Help Us?

Investigating real issues that affect real communities all over the country allows for students to build informed opinions on the ways to improve systems. Computers, AI, robots, and more are starting to infiltrate our society in many different ways. Through informational and opinion-based texts, arguments are created for and against the increasing dependence on robots in a community.

Mentor Texts



Informational Text

Now That Computers Connect Us All... What's Next?

By Matthew Hutson



Opinion

Artificial Intelligence is Now Used to Predict Crime

By Randy Rieland



Informational Text

The Past Present and Future of Robotic Surgery

By James Gaines



Informational Text

From Admissions to Teaching to Grading, AI is Infiltrating Higher Education

By Derek Newton

Read Across Genres



Multimedia

Artificial Intelligence vs. Humans

By Interesting Engineers



Opinion

The Robots are Coming, Prepare for Trouble

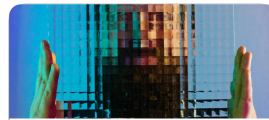
By David Deming



Opinion

In the Battle with Robots, Human Workers are Winning

By Farhad Manjoo



Visual Text

He used AI to win a fine-arts competition. Was it cheating?

By Drew Harwell



Visual Text

A GPS Guided Robot Paints a Community Mural at CAB

By Jeff Link

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Argument: evidence; issues and appeals
- Author's Craft: Analyze an author's evidence/coherence
- Informational/Argument Texts: Trace and evaluate an argument; Analyze structure
- Compare Arguments: Compare issues, appeals, and evidence in opinion texts
- Visual Texts: Trace and evaluate arguments in photo essays and infographics

Use Language and Grammar

- Connotation and Denotation
- Pronouns (case, intensive)
- Punctuation: Commas

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Formal Debate

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write an argumentative essay
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

Should robots and other forms of artificial intelligence be used to perform important tasks in our communities?

What Can We Do to Become Better Global Citizens?

Short stories can show us the everyday lives of ordinary characters. In this unit, students will explore the essential question, “How can stories help us look at our everyday lives and our role in the lives of others through a new lens?” to discover how the actions we take can positively affect others.

Mentor Texts



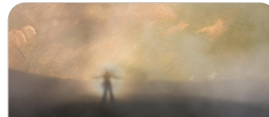
Short Story
The Silence

By Haruki Murakami



Short Story
Ride

By Linda Nagali



Short Story
The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas

By Ursula Le Guin



Short Story
A Brief and Fearful Star

By Carmen Maria Machado

Read Across Genres



Poetry
Two Versions of the Chimney Sweeper

By William Blake



Poetry
Musée des Beaux Arts

By W.H. Auden



Multimedia
The 17 Goals

By United Nations



Opinion
The Awesome Importance of Imagination

By David Brooks



Informational Text
The Long Defeat

By Tracy Kidder

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Story: Determine characters, setting, plot, and theme in short stories
- Author's Craft: Setting, point of view, character, narrative techniques
- Compare Texts Across Genres
- Informational Texts: Use evidence to support central ideas

Use Language and Grammar

- Context Clues
- Commas

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Story Telling

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a short story
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

How can stories help us look at our everyday lives and our role in the lives of others through a new lens?

How Do We Live Sustainably?

Students will explore various communities around the world and what it means for them to live sustainably. Through multimedia and informational texts, they will determine what actions they can take to make their community more sustainable.

Mentor Texts



Informational Text

What is a Carbon Footprint—and How to Measure Yours

By Kieran Mulvaney



Informational News Article

What Does Sustainable Living Look Like? Maybe Like Uruguay

By Noah Gallagher Shannon



Informational News Article

A 105-Mile-Long City Will Snake Through the Saudi Desert. Is That a Good Idea?

By Bill Chappell



Informational Text

What Does a Sustainable Community Actually Look Like?

By Kaid Benfield

Read Across Genres



Informational Text

12 Ways to Live More Sustainably

From Center for Biological Diversity



Opinion

Could You Power Your Home with a Bike?

By Adam Frank



Multimedia

What is Net Zero?



Short Story

The Lorax

By Dr. Seuss



Infographic

Zero Net Energy

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Structure in Informational Texts: Interpret words and phrases, analyze sentences, paragraphs, and portions of the text
- Author's Craft: Understand point of view and purpose; describe structure in informational texts
- Compare Texts Across Genres to understand a topic through multiple perspectives

Use Language and Grammar

- Correcting Variations from Standard English
- Figurative Language

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Pitch Deck Presentation

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a research paper
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

How does a community live sustainably?

What Happens When Civic Duty and Values Collide?

Through close-reading and performance, students will discuss what happens when our values and beliefs conflict with those in power over us. By writing a final cause and effect essay, students will examine how internal conflicts within specific characters in the play lead to the final outcome.

Mentor Texts



Drama
Antigone: Part I
By Sophocles



Drama
Antigone: Part II
By Sophocles



Drama
Antigone: Part III
By Sophocles



Drama
Coming Soon!
Excerpt from Oedipus Rex
By Sophocles

Read Across Genres



Drama Excerpt
Antigone: Part II
By Sophocles



Multimedia
Crash Course on Oedipus



Informational Text
Rise to Prominence
By Rosalie F. Baker



Informational Text
The Healing Power of Greek Tragedy
By Jeff MacGregor

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of a Drama: Determine how characters, setting, plot, and theme evolve in a drama
- Author's Craft: Analyze the impact of author's choices and how playwrights develop character and theme in drama
- Compare interpretations and uses of drama across genres
- Informational Texts: Use evidence to understand context and impact

Use Language and Grammar

- Spelling
- Context Clues

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Performance

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a cause and effect essay
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Context Clues; Analyzing Word Choices

Essential Question

What happens when our beliefs and values conflict with those who hold power over us?

How Can You Afford the Life You Want to Live?

As students look toward graduation and their postsecondary option, they need to figure out the cost and the options that are available to help them pay for that option. Throughout this unit, students will discuss and examine the cost of college and how to apply for federal aid and scholarships.

Mentor Texts



Multimedia

Conan O'Brien's Commencement Speech



Informational Text

The Five Different Paths That People Take Before They Feel Like Official Adults

By Mike Vuolo



Informational Text

Contrary to What Everyone Thinks, College Costs Less These Days

By Derek Newton



Informational Text

How to Pay for College Using Overlooked Strategies

By Emma Kerr and Sarah Wood

Read Across Genres



Informational Text

How to Pay for College: Top 6 Ways to Pay for College

From College Ave Student Loans



Informational Text

How to Pay for College: 8 Expert-Approved Tips

By Teddy Nykiel, Anna Helhoski, and Eliza Haverstock



Federal Student Aid

Multimedia

Types of Federal Student Aid

From Federal Student Aid



Informational Text

Find and Apply For as Many Scholarships as You Can—It's Free Money for College or Career School!

From Federal Student Aid



Informational Text

Completing the FAFSA

From Federal Student Aid

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Informational Text: Use evidence and central ideas from a variety of texts
- Author's Craft: Analyze how text features and connections within informational texts help develop central ideas
- Develop a robust understanding of the postsecondary process
- Extensions: Engage in activities to support postsecondary planning

Use Language and Grammar

- Revising for Clarity, Development, and Organization
- Figurative Language

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Panel Discussion

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write postsecondary plans
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

How can you reach your goals given competing priorities?

Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Informational Text: Analyze connections within informational texts
- Author's Craft: Analyze how various genres of literature and informational texts draw from other sources
- Develop a robust understanding of aspects of various literary forms and genres
- Extensions: Engage in informal research of a variety of myths and tales from across the globe

Use Language and Grammar

- Roots and Affixes
- Words that Capture Relationships
- Sentence Structure
- Revising for Clarity and Organization

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Socratic Discussion

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a Comparative Analysis
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Analyzing Verbs in Writing Prompts

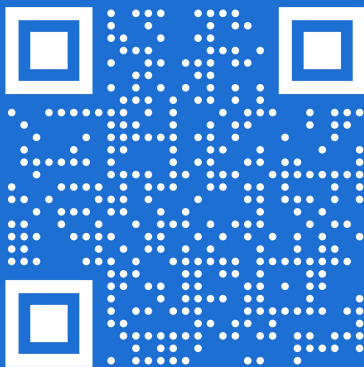
Essential Question

How does literature capture the values and perspectives of various eras?

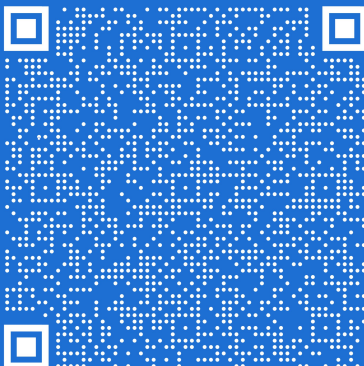
Next Steps

Ready to learn more about our Core ELA?

We'd love to partner and pilot Core with you! Scan the QR codes below to learn more or schedule a demo of Core ELA!



Learn More



Schedule a Demo