

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Curriculum Benchmarks

**Grades 9 and 10
English Language Arts**

Westford Academy

Compiled by the ELA Curriculum Task Committee

“Shaping the future one child at a time”

Visit our website at: westfordk12.us

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English College Preparatory 2 Grade 9

- Acquire, understand, and use new vocabulary
- Demonstrate an understanding of the elements of poetry, short stories, novels, drama, and nonfiction, using supplemental readings
- Explore the essential themes in literature
- Research an aspect of poetry and create a group presentation based on that research
- Complete writing assignments modeling at least two of the literary genres
- Improve understanding of the parts of speech, parts of the sentence, phrases, and clauses

English College Preparatory Grade 9

- Acquire, understand, and use new vocabulary
- Demonstrate an understanding of the elements of poetry, short stories, novels, drama, and nonfiction
- Explore the essential themes in literature
- Complete writing assignments that analyze conventions of the different genres.
- Demonstrate proficiency in the parts of speech, parts of the sentence, phrases, and clauses
- Demonstrate the ability to listen to the ideas of others and contribute ideas in large and small discussion groups
- Research a topic relevant to the literary genre and complete a project based on that research

English Honors Grade 9

- Acquire, understand, and use new vocabulary
- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the elements of poetry, short stories, novels, drama, and nonfiction
- Complete independent reading assignments to enhance their knowledge of the different literary genres
- Explore the essential themes in literature
- Research a topic relevant to genre and complete a project based on that research that includes an oral presentation
- Demonstrate the ability to listen to the ideas of others and contribute ideas in large and small discussion groups
- Complete writing assignments that analyze conventions of the different genres and show a sophistication in writing that encompasses their knowledge of vocabulary and the conventions of grammar
- Demonstrate mastery in the parts of speech, parts of the sentence, phrases, and clauses

English College Preparatory Grade 10

- Acquire, understand, and use new vocabulary
- Deepen their understanding of genre and apply their knowledge in preparation for the MCAS
- Explore the essential themes in literature
- Research a topic related to one of the major themes and complete a project based on that research
- Practice writing open-ended responses and five paragraph essays on literature in preparation for the MCAS
- Demonstrate proficiency in usage of verbs, pronouns, and modifiers
- Demonstrate the ability to listen to the ideas of others, elaborate on those ideas, and contribute information and ideas in large and small discussion groups

English Honors Grade 10

- Acquire, understand, and use new vocabulary
- Deepen their understanding of genre and apply their knowledge in preparation for the MCAS
- Complete independent reading assignments to enhance their knowledge of the different literary genres
- Explore the essential themes in literature
- Complete writing assignments that include an opinionated thesis statement and sophisticated argument to support that statement
- Demonstrate mastery in usage of verbs, pronouns, and modifiers