



Arizona English Language Arts Standards

Sixth Grade

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Adopted December 2016

Sixth Grade Overview

Arizona's English Language Arts Standards work together in a clear progression from kindergarten through 12th grade. This document provides a brief overview of the skills a student will learn at this grade. Each standard builds on the standard that came before and towards the standard that comes in the next grade level. Each standard is expected to be taught as appropriate for the grade-level. Some standards appear to have similar wording at multiple grade levels; however, it is understood that they are to be applied with increased focus to progressively more challenging texts and tasks.

Reading Standards for Literature

- Independently and proficiently read grade-appropriate and increasingly complex literature from a variety of genres
- Analyze how key details build the central idea or theme of a text
- Write summaries of text distinct from personal opinions and judgments
- Analyze elements of literature, including an author's use of figurative language and how a specific part of a text contributes to its structure
- Cite textual evidence to support analysis and inferences
- Compare and contrast how texts from different genres address similar themes or topics
- Analyze characters, setting, plot, and theme in literary work

Reading Standards for Informational Text

- Read and analyze grade appropriate informational and nonfiction texts
- Cite textual evidence to support analysis and inferences
- Write summaries of text distinct from personal opinions and judgments
- Integrate information gained from a variety of texts to determine different points of view
- Analyze how details build the central idea and purpose of a text
- Determine ideas that are and are not supported by evidence
- Make accurate inferences based on cited evidence found in a text

Arizona English Language Arts Standards 6th Grade

Writing Standards

- Write argumentative and explanatory pieces that include evidence to support ideas, linking words, precise vocabulary and a conclusion
- Maintain a formal style in argumentative and explanatory writing
- Write narratives that include a clear sequence of events, descriptive details, dialogue, and words that indicate a change in time
- Conduct short research projects to build knowledge through investigation
- Plan, draft, revise and edit to produce clear and coherent writing
- Demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to complete a writing task

Speaking and Listening Standards

- Engage in collaborative discussions by using effective and appropriate speaking and listening skills and following specific discussion guidelines
- Prepare and participate in discussions by reading/researching the texts under discussion
- Orally present claims and findings, sequencing ideas and evidence logically with appropriate descriptions, facts, and details
- Interpret information presented orally in diverse media formats, and decipher claims that are supported by evidence from claims that are not
- Report on a topic or text, sequencing ideas logically, using relevant facts and details, and including multimedia components

Language Standards

- Demonstrate mastery of grade level conventions (grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling)
- Construct paragraphs that include an introduction of the topic, supporting details, and conclusion
- Use knowledge of Greek and Latin prefixes, suffixes, and roots to determine the meaning of unknown words
- Determine the meaning of unknown words using root words, prefixes, suffixes, context clues, and dictionaries
- Apply their knowledge of figurative language and word relationships to determine nuances in word meaning for sixth-grade vocabulary

ESSENTIAL STANDARDS

Essential Standards are individual standards selected to receive a greater proportion of questions on the AASA exams. The AASA exams, administered in grades three through eight, are developed based on a standards blueprint approved by the State Board of Education that includes individual standards grouped into clusters and identifies an allocation of questions for each cluster. The identified Essential Standards will receive the maximum number of questions allowed by the standards blueprint. **Note that ALL standards will continue to be included in the test design of the annual state exams.**

ALL STANDARDS WILL BE ASSESSED

The identified Essential Standards are targeted for emphasis, indicating that these standards will have a higher proportion on the AASA when possible. The state assessment will retain the same length and duration. **ALL STANDARDS** remain valid and subject to inclusion in each year's AASA.

REPORTING

The AASA exam results will include a new report in which Essential Standards will be represented. Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year identified Essential Standards, from the existing State Board of Education-approved standards for ELA, in grades three through eight will have a higher proportion of items on the statewide assessment, keeping within the [current blueprint](#) adopted by the State Board of Education. Each given year an Essential Standard Cluster, identified on the table, may or may not be reported, depending upon the final form.

REPORTING CLUSTERS GRADE 6

Reading Standards for Literature	Reading Standards for Informational Text	Writing and Language
Key Ideas and Details*	Key Ideas and Details*	Writing**
Craft and Structure*	Craft and Structure*	Language*
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	

*Reported cluster

** Writing is reported by trait

Reading Standards for Literature

Key Ideas and Details	
*6.RL.1	Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
*6.RL.2	Determine a theme or 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.
*6.RL.3	Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.
Craft and Structure	
*6.RL.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
6.RL.5	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.
*6.RL.6	Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	
6.RL.7	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.
6.RL.8	(Not applicable to literature)
*6.RL.9	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.
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	
6.RL.10	By the end of the year, proficiently and independently read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, in a text complexity range determined by qualitative and quantitative measures appropriate to grade 6.

Reading Standards for Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details	
*6.RI.1	Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
*6.RI.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.
6.RI.3	Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and developed in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).
Craft and Structure	
*6.RI.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.
*6.RI.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.
6.RI.6	Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	
6.RI.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.
*6.RI.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.
*6.RI.9	Compare and contrast one author's presentation of events with that of another author.
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	
6.RI.10	By the end of the year, proficiently and independently read and comprehend informational texts and nonfiction in a text complexity range determined by qualitative and quantitative measures appropriate to grade 6.

Writing Standards

Text Types and Purposes	
*6.W.1	Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. - Introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly. - Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text. - Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons. - Establish and maintain a formal style. - Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented.
*6.W.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. - Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension. - Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples. - Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. - Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic. - Establish and maintain a formal style. - Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.
6.W.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. - Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically. - Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters. - Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another. - Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events. - Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

Arizona English Language Arts Standards 6th Grade

Production and Distribution of Writing	
*6.W.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
6.W.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. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grade 6.)
6.W.6	Use technology, including the internet, to type and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to complete a writing task in a single sitting.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge	
6.W.7	Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.
6.W.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.
6.W.9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. a. Apply grade 6 Reading standards to literature. b. Apply grade 6 Reading standards to informational text and nonfiction.

Range of Writing	
6.W.10	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 discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Speaking and Listening Standards

Comprehension and Collaboration	
6.SL.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, draw conclusions, and demonstrate understanding of multiple perspectives through reflection and paraphrasing.
*6.SL.2	Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, and orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.
*6.SL.3	Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas	
6.SL.4	Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.
6.SL.5	Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, images, music, and sound) and visual displays in presentations to clarify information.
6.SL.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (See grade 6 Language standards 1 and 3 for specific expectations.)

Language Standards

Conventions of Standard English	
*6.L.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. a. Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (subjective, objective, and possessive). b. Use intensive pronouns (e.g., myself, ourselves). c. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person. d. Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents). 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.
*6.L.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. a. Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements. b. Use correct spelling.
Knowledge of Language	
6.L.3	Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. a. Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style. b. Maintain consistent style and tone.

Arizona English Language Arts Standards 6th Grade

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use	
6.L.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. a. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., audience, auditory, audible). b. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. c. Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech. d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase.
6.L.5	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. a. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., personification) in context. b. Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., cause/effect, part/whole, item/category) to better understand each of the words. c. Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., stingy, scrimping, economical, un wasteful, thrifty).
6.L.6	Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.