English 8 is a two-semester interactive and feedback-rich course designed to build students' communication and reading comprehension skills. Reading comprehension lessons strengthen students' critical analysis skills as they study how nonfiction and literature can be used to share ideas. Writing lessons combine free-response exercises with drafting strategies and exemplars to help students communicate clearly and credibly in narrative, argumentative, and informational styles. Speaking and listening lessons guide students in developing skills specific to public discourse as they evaluate one another's speeches and adapt to different audiences and situations. In language lessons, students build foundational grammar skills they need to articulate their ideas and understand challenging words.

There are no required materials for this course.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Stories Based on Stories

- Plot Archetypes
- Character Archetypes
- Thematic Archetypes
- Wrap-Up: Stories Based on Stories

Unit 2: Structure and Meaning

- The Form of a Story
- Poetic Devices
- Poetic Structure
- Wrap-Up: Structure and Meaning

Unit 3: Expository Writing

- Reading an Expository Essay
- Planning an Expository Essay
- Writing an Expository Essay
- Wrap-Up: Expository Writing

Unit 4: Creative Writing

- Planning a Work of Flash Fiction
- Writing a Work of Flash Fiction
- Revising Flash Fiction
- Wrap-Up: Creative Writing

Unit 5: Semester Wrap-Up

- Semester Wrap-Up

Unit 6: Nonfiction

- Literary Nonfiction
- Informational Texts

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- Write an Informational Text
- Wrap-Up: Nonfiction

Unit 7: Persuasive Texts

- Conflicting Accounts
- Rhetoric
- Giving Speeches
- Wrap-Up: Persuasive Texts

Unit 8: Argumentative Writing

- Analyzing Arguments
- Research
- Writing as Craft
- Wrap-Up: Argumentative Writing

Unit 9: Media

- Evaluating Media
- Using Media
- Working in Groups
- Wrap-Up: Media

Unit 10: Semester Wrap-Up

- Semester Wrap-Up

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