



National Standards and Benchmarks

Standard	Benchmark	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Make Your Case
HISTORY						
Historical Understanding						
Understands and knows how to analyze chronological relationships and patterns	Understands patterns of change and continuity in the historical succession of related events		•			
	Knows how to impose temporal structure on their historical narratives		•			
Understands the historical perspective	Knows how to view the past in terms of the norms and values of the time		•			
	Understands that specific ideas had an impact on history		•		•	
	Analyzes the influence specific ideas and beliefs had on a period of history		•			
CIVICS						
What Are the Basic Values and Principles of American Democracy?						
Understands the central ideas of American constitutional government and how this form of government has shaped the character of American society	Knows the fundamental values of American democracy	•	•	•	•	•
	Knows the fundamental principles of American democracy	•	•	•	•	•
Understands the importance of Americans sharing and supporting certain values, beliefs, and principles of American constitutional democracy	Knows that constitutional government is a fundamental principle of American democracy		•			
Understands the role of diversity in American life and the importance of shared values, political beliefs, and civic beliefs in an increasingly diverse American society	Knows how an American's identity stems from belief in and allegiance to shared political values and principles		•	•	•	•
	Knows basic values and principles that Americans share	•	•	•	•	•
	Knows why it is important to the individual that Americans act on their shared political values and principles	•	•	•	•	•
How Does the Government Established by the Constitution Embody the Purposes, Values, and Principles of American Democracy?						
Understands the role and importance of law in the American constitutional system and issues regarding the judicial protection of individual rights	Understands the importance to individuals and to society of major due process protections	•	•	•	•	•



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CIVICS (continued)						
What Are the Roles of the Citizen in American Democracy?						
Understands how certain character traits enhance citizens' ability to fulfill personal and civic responsibilities	Understands the importance for individuals and society of commonly held civic responsibilities	•	•	•	•	•
	Understands the meaning of civic responsibilities as distinguished from personal responsibilities, and understands contemporary issues that involve civic responsibilities	•	•	•	•	•
	Understands how citizens' responsibilities as Americans could require the subordination of their personal rights and interests to the public good	•	•	•	•	•
LANGUAGE ARTS						
Writing						
Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process	Uses content, style, and structure appropriate for specific audiences and purposes	•	•	•		
	Writes expository compositions			•		
	Writes persuasive compositions		•			
	Writes compositions that address problems/solutions	•	•			
Gathers and uses information for research purposes	Gathers data for research topics from interviews			•		
	Uses a variety of resource materials to gather information for research topics			•		
Reading						
Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of informational texts	Summarizes and paraphrases information in texts	•		•		
	Draws conclusions and makes inferences based on explicit and implicit information in texts	•			•	•
	Differentiates between fact and opinion in informational texts	•			•	•
Listening and Speaking						
Uses listening and speaking strategies for different purposes	Plays a variety of roles in group discussions	•	•	•		
	Listens in order to understand topic, purpose, and perspective in spoken texts					•



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LANGUAGE ARTS (continued)						
Viewing						
Uses viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media	Understands a variety of messages conveyed by visual media					•
	Uses a variety of criteria to evaluate and form viewpoints of visual media					•
LIFE SKILLS						
Thinking and Reasoning						
Understands and applies the basic principles of presenting an argument	Makes basic distinctions between information that is based on fact and information that is based on opinion	•			•	•
	Compares and contrasts the credibility of differing accounts of the same event	•			•	•
Understands and applies basic principles of logic and reasoning	Understands that when people have rules that always hold for a given situation and good information about the situation, then logic can help them figure out what is true about the situation	•			•	•
	Understands that reasoning by similarities can suggest ideas but cannot be used to prove things	•	•		•	•
	Understands that personal values influence the types of conclusions people make	•	•	•	•	•
Working with Others						
Contributes to the overall effort of a group	Works cooperatively within a group to complete tasks, achieve goals, and solve problems	•				•
	Identifies and uses the individual strengths and interests of others to accomplish team goals	•				•
	Identifies causes of conflict in a group and works cooperatively with others to deal with conflict through negotiation, compromise, and consensus	•				•

Sources: NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English), IRA (International Reading Association), McREL (Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning).