

A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



Reading, Writing,
and Communicating

Twelfth Grade

Working Together

To support families and teachers in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this guide provides an overview of the learning expectations for twelfth grade reading, writing, and communicating and offers some possible learning experiences students may engage in during this school year.

Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are ultimately successful in college, careers, and life. The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in ten content areas, emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century.

Reading, Writing, and Communicating for High Schools (9-12)

The reading, writing, and communicating standards at middle and high school grades ask students to be critical readers of complex literary and informational texts. The standards require that students develop the writing skills necessary to convey their experience in the world, to produce thoughtful analyses of academic and real-world topics, and to develop well-reasoned arguments on relevant topics in their lives. The standards foster opportunities for students to work collaboratively with others as they develop the literacy skills to be academically successful and prepared for life after high school.

Where can I learn more?

- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Vince Puzick, Reading, Writing, and Communicating Content Specialist at 303-319-9519, Puzick_v@cde.state.co.us



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At the end of Twelfth Grade, students can...



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Reading, Writing, and Communicating Learning Expectations for Twelfth Grade

Oral Expression and Listening

Develop and deliver a speech for a specific purpose and audience (making strategic use of multimedia and appropriate technical/specialized language); deliver information expressing a central idea, addressing opposing or alternate viewpoints, and conveying a clear and well-reasoned perspective; evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, use of evidence, and rhetoric; participate with peers in civil, democratic discussions to make decisions, set goals, and establish roles for group success.

Reading for All Purposes

Read a variety of texts, including important texts from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries; summarize and analyze themes, plots, and characters in literature or central ideas, events, and people in nonfiction; compare/contrast text characteristics and authors' perspectives in different texts; examine the impact of an author's choices regarding story elements; evaluate how literary components impact meaning (symbolism, irony, extended metaphor); analyze argumentative and informational texts to understand how style, rhetoric, and content contribute to the text's power and persuasiveness.

Writing and Composition

Write for targeted audiences, using technology and a range of elaboration techniques (questioning, comparing, connecting, interpreting, analyzing, or describing); argue a position by providing a sophisticated claim, addressing counterarguments, developing a logical structure, and providing relevant evidence, facts, quotations, and examples; write narratives that develop context, character/narrator motivation, problem/conflict and

resolution, and provide descriptive details to support and express a theme; manipulate elements of imagery, tone, and point of view.

Research and Reasoning

Define, narrow, and design research projects; bring together authoritative sources through the use of advanced searches (evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of each source); selectively integrate and synthesize information, avoid plagiarism and the overreliance on one source, and follow a standard format for citation; distinguish between evidence and inferences; identify false premises or assumptions; explain and defend decisions made as a writer/researcher (sources cited and evidence used).

Throughout the Twelfth Grade, you may find students...

- Creating digital portfolios that analyze and critique various works (poetry, visual art, editorials, historical and literary documents significant in U.S. history); producing original compositions of various genres or types of writing on a specific topic or theme relevant to American literature.
- Researching topics of personal relevance and interest and presenting findings to school or community audiences or to an online audience (via prezi, VoiceThread, or other platforms).
- Working as a member of a collaborative team to analyze various literary and nonfiction works and to develop a whole-class presentation demonstrating multiple perspectives on a topic or theme; working in a team to generate a discussion forum (Socratic Seminar, round-table discussion, debate teams) round relevant themes or topics.