

Sophomore English Essential Learnings

The student...

Literature

1. Recognizes the author's intended purpose in writing a piece of literature and expresses it in terms of what the author wants the reader to understand.
2. Describes elements of fiction related to specific literary pieces:
 - character development
 - plot
 - setting
 - theme
 - point of view
3. Identifies the turning point and justify the identification with information from the piece.
4. Identifies elements of tragedy (tragic hero and tragic flaw)
5. Differentiates among genres:
 - fiction (short story, novel)
 - non-fiction (auto-biography, essay)
 - poetry
 - drama
6. Identifies figurative language in literature:
 - simile
 - metaphor
 - personification
 - imagery

Reading

7. Uses mental strategies to comprehend text:
 - develop visual and other sensory images from text during and after reading
 - draw inferences from text
 - synthesize texts after reading
 - uses context clues, synonyms, and antonyms to learn new vocabulary

Composition

8. Writes effective paragraphs including a topic sentence, support sentences with relevant details, and a concluding sentence.
9. Writes summaries and paraphrases of text from one and two sources.
10. Differentiates among purposes for paragraphs in multi-paragraph compositions.
11. Explains the difference between topic sentences and thesis statements.

Language

12. Differentiates between independent and dependent clauses.
13. Differentiates between common and proper nouns and capitalizes appropriately
14. Effectively edits own writing for:
 - capitalization at the beginning of sentences
 - ending punctuation
 - complete sentences
 - use of commas in a series of three or more
 - use of comma with coordinating conjunctions
 - use of comma with words, phrases, or clauses that interrupt
 - for homonym usage, specifically for their/there/they're, to/too/two, and your/you're
 - for choosing the correct word for often confused pairs, specifically for its/it's, effect/affect, then/than