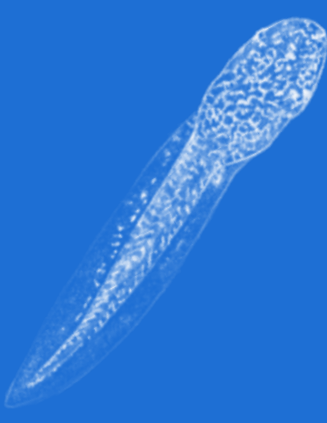




ELA Core Curriculum

for **GRADE 11**

 **ThinkCERCA™**




ThinkCERCA's Core Curriculum was designed to help students develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies to thrive in a global economy.

To be the problem-solvers, leaders, and job-creators of our future, students need to be able to consume complex information, think about it critically, and express their own points of view effectively.


Guiding Values in Our Design:

- Student engagement
- Comprehensive coverage of standards
- Ease of implementation
- Support for best practices in reading and writing routines
- High-quality authentic texts
- Deeper learning opportunities



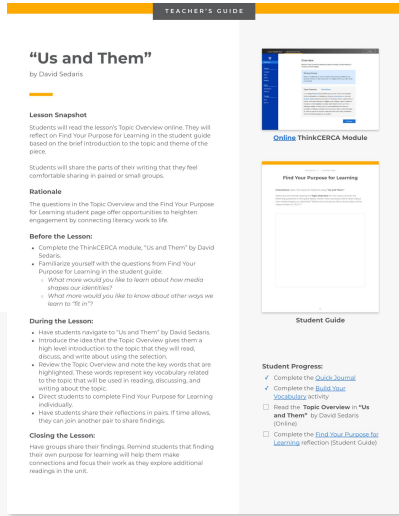
Each grade level invites students to engage in close-reading, analysis and collaboration, formal speaking and listening opportunities, and writing, research, and multimedia portfolio development – all grounded in our research-backed CERCA framework.

Ultimately, we espouse a pedagogy of confidence.

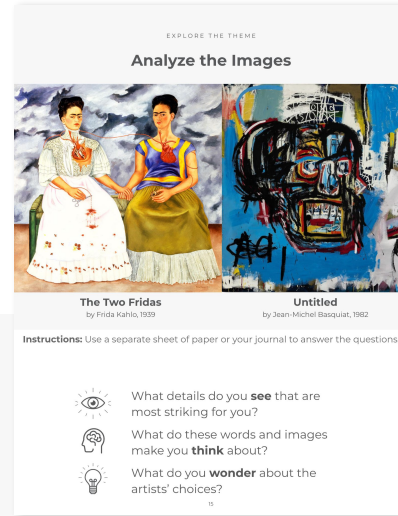


We truly believe that confident young people are the keys to the success of each and every one of our communities. This program is designed to help us spark courageous thinking!

Course Resources



Teacher's Guide



Student Guide

Course Overview

- Roadmap for course including assessment blocks (BOY, MOY, EOY) and unit snapshots
- Portfolio assessments listed to show progression by unit throughout the year
- Assessment practices aligned to SAT and ACT

Student Guide

- Previews for all unit features: goal-setting, modules, speaking/listening activities, portfolio, and reflection
- Offline activities for each module for each step: Before Your Read, Read, Analyze, Write

Unit Planner

- At-a-glance view of the unit lesson and activities included

Differentiation Guides

- Additional instructional support and ready-made modified materials for both online and offline activities throughout each unit

Teacher's Guide with Facilitator Notes

- Step-by-step guide for unit instruction
- Module preview with summary, unit connection, and key knowledge, understandings, and skills
- Facilitator notes with detailed talking points

Direct Instruction/Skills Practice

- Comprehensive coverage of key skills + concepts
- Flexible implementation options for teacher-led, small group, or self-paced implementation
- Embedded assessment
- Additional leveled skills practice

360 Degrees of Text

Grade 11 Core ELAR

Comprehensive Assessment Resources



Benchmarks



Continuous Embedded Assessment



AP/ACT/SAT Aligned Practice

1

Who Influences You?

How do the connections with those closest to us determine our values, beliefs and identities? Explore models of narrative nonfiction that examine growing up and becoming one's own person.

Portfolio: Narrative Essay Writing

2

What Differences Can National Parks Make?

Should we protect and prioritize the designation of national parks? Explore these questions through argumentative texts and a variety of other pieces across genres..

Portfolio: Argumentative Essay Writing

3

How Do Our Choices Define Us?

Why does a time period influence one's perspective? How do individuals develop the world in which they live and thrive? How has this changed over time? Explore these questions through variety of texts.

Portfolio: Literary Analysis

4

Where Is the Water?

What role does water play in creating a sustainable planet? Learn more about sustainable communities and efforts by individuals and organizations to solve problems.

Portfolio: Research-Based Pitch Deck

360 Degrees of Text

Grade 11 Core ELAR

5

How Does Power Corrupt?

What happens when we betray our own values and morals? What happens when misinformation escalates conflict? When conflict is productive, how do communities grow? Explore this question through a full-length drama and a variety of other pieces across genres.

Portfolio: Cause and Effect Essay Writing

6

What Is Your Path?

What criteria should you consider when thinking about postsecondary life? Explore readings about the postsecondary opportunities as well as resources and frameworks for determining your pathway in life.

Portfolio: Research Paper/College Essay

7

What Is the Spirit of the People of the United States of America?

How have fiction and comedy influenced public life? Explore satirical writing and other texts to understand how humor helps in our lives..

Portfolio: Analytical Writing

Sample Units



Who Influences You?

Grounding students in the experiences of others similar to and different from them allows students to develop self-awareness, social awareness, and empathy, while giving them opportunities to express their own ideas through a variety of formats.

Mentor Texts



Opinion
The Secret to a Long Life is Bocce

By William Giraldi



Personal Narrative
The Way to Rainy Mountain

By N. Scott Momaday



Memoir Excerpt
My Beloved World

By Sonia Sotomayor



Personal Narrative
Beauty: When the Other Dancer Is the Self

By Alice Walker

Read Across Genres



Multimedia
Food, Identity, and Family

By UNC College



Poetry
Eddie Priest's Barbershop & Notary

By Kevin Young



Poetry
Manners

By Elizabeth Bishop



Informational Text
The Stories that Bind Us

By Bruce Feiler



Informational Text
DNA Testing Can Bring Families Together, but Gives Mixed Answers on Ethnicity

By Tina Hesman Saey

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Story Elements: Analyze character, setting, plot
- Author's Craft: Narrative techniques
- Theme: Use evidence to determine theme
- Poetry: Compare details and imagery using the SOAPSTone strategy
- Informational Texts: Determine and trace a central idea through details; Summarize

Use Language and Grammar

- Connotation and Denotation
- Sentence Structure: *but, because, so*
- Parts of Speech: Adjectives
- Punctuation: Non-restrictive elements

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Formal Socratic discussion

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a personal narrative
- Writing process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Error Analysis
- Test Prep: Prediction

Essential Question

How do the connections with those closest to us determine our values, beliefs and identities?

What Differences Can National Parks Make?

Investigating real issues that affect real communities all over the country allows for students to build informed opinions on the ways to improve systems. The National Park system is a national treasure, but is it always used as well as it could be? Through informational and opinion-based texts, arguments will be made for the National Parks.

Mentor Texts



Informational Text

Is National Park Status Always a Good Thing?

By Stephanie Vermillion



Opinion

Saving America's Treasures



Informational Text

Animals Notice—and Adapt—When Humans are in National Parks

By Laura Baisas



Informational Text

Our National Parks are in Trouble

By Jon Waterman

Read Across Genres



Multimedia

The National Parks Photo Gallery

By Ken Burns



Opinion

A Modest Proposal: We Need More National Parks

By Michael Kellett



Opinion

More National Parks Won't Solve Overcrowding

By Jonathan Thompson



Visual Text

5 Reasons Why America's Arctic Should Remain Off Limits to New Drilling

By World Wildlife Fund



Photo Essay

The Forgotten History of the US' African American Coal Towns

By Stephen Starr

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Argument: evidence; issues and appeals
- Author's Craft: Analyze an author's evidence/coherence
- Informational/Argument Texts: Trace and evaluate an argument; Analyze structure
- Compare Arguments: Compare issues, appeals, and evidence in opinion texts
- Visual Texts: Trace and evaluate arguments in photo essays and infographics

Use Language and Grammar

- Connotation and Denotation
- Pronouns (case, intensive)
- Punctuation: Commas

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Formal Debate

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write an argumentative essay
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

Should we protect and prioritize the designation of national parks?


How Do Our Choices Define Us?

Short stories can show us the difficult choices characters have to make and how they work through those choices. In this unit, students will explore the essential question, “How can we resolve tensions between values that are in conflict with each other?” to better understand how our choices shape who we are.

Mentor Texts



Short Story
The Bet
By Anton Chekhov



Short Story
Eveline
By James Joyce

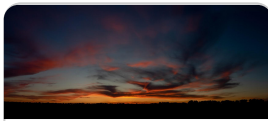


Short Story
Anyone Can Do It
By Manuel Muñoz



Short Story
Apollo
By Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie


Read Across Genres




Multimedia
Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night
By Dylan Thomas Read



Poetry
Blackberry-Picking
By Seamus Heaney



Poetry
The Gift
By Li-Young Lee



Informational Text
Why I Write
By George Orwell



Opinion
Vindication of the Rights of Women
By Mary Wollstonecraft

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Story: Determine characters, setting, plot, and theme in short stories
- Author's Craft: Setting, point of view, character, narrative techniques
- Compare Texts Across Genres
- Informational Texts: Use evidence to support central ideas

Use Language and Grammar

- Context Clues
- Commas

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Story Telling

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a short story
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

How can we resolve tensions between two values that are in conflict with each other?

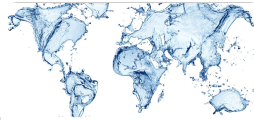
Where Is the Water?

Students will examine and how water plays an important role in creating a sustainable planet. Through analysis and discussion of informational texts, infographics, photographs, and a novel excerpt, they will determine how water affects everything around them.

Mentor Texts



Informational Text
Why We Remember Floods and Forget Droughts
 By Kim Beil



Informational Text
A Map of the Future of Water
 By Jay Famiglietti



Informational News Article
A Century Ago, This Water Agreement Changed the West. Now, the Region is in Crisis.
 By Margaret Osborne



Informational Text
Water Shortages Must Be Placed on the Climate-Change Agenda. This is Why
 By Jay Famiglietti and José Iganacio Gallindo

Read Across Genres



Informational Text
Sustainable Earth: Water
 By Brian Handwerk



Informational News Article
Mexico City: Thirsty and Sinking
 By Carrie Kahn



Multimedia
Sustainability: Water-The Water Cycle



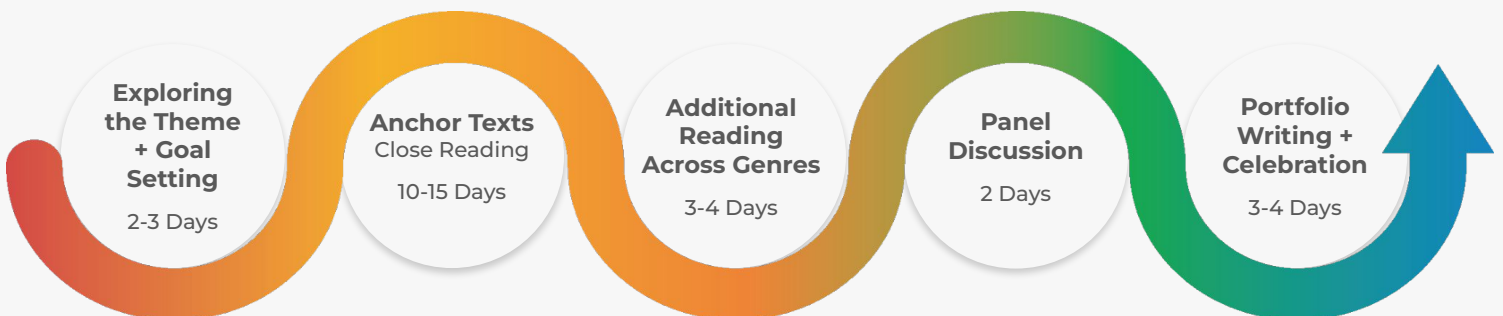
Novel Excerpt
Excerpt from The Grapes of Wrath
 By John Steinbeck



Informational Text
Sustainable Water: Our Essential Guide to Sustainable Water Resource Management Solutions & Strategies
 From Aqua Tech

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Structure in Informational Texts: Interpret words and phrases, analyze sentences, paragraphs, and portions of the text
- Author's Craft: Understand point of view and purpose; describe structure in informational texts
- Compare Texts Across Genres to understand a topic through multiple perspectives

Use Language and Grammar

- Correcting Variations from Standard English
- Figurative Language

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Pitch Deck Presentation

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a research paper
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

What role does water play in creating a sustainable planet?

How Does Power Corrupt?

Conflict can often be thought of as happening with another person, but what about when one betrays their own morals and values? Students will discuss this as they explore a Shakespearean drama and write a cause and effect essay about what ultimately led to Macbeth or Lady Macbeth’s downfall.

Mentor Texts



Drama

Macbeth: Act I

By William Shakespeare



Drama

Macbeth: Act II

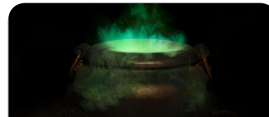
By William Shakespeare



Drama

Macbeth: Act III

By William Shakespeare



Drama

Macbeth: Act IV

By William Shakespeare



Drama

Macbeth: Act V

By William Shakespeare

Read Across Genres



Drama Excerpt

Macbeth: Act I, Scene III

By William Shakespeare



Multimedia

Macbeth: Act III, Scene IV, Dinner



Multimedia

The Tragedy of MacBeth | A True Story



Informational Text

Break A Leg, Macbeth: Theater Superstitions for the Unsuspecting

By Jennifer Sneed



Informational Text

Witchy Characters

By Barbara Radcliffe Rogers and Andrew Matthew

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of a Drama: Determine how characters, setting, plot and theme evolve in a drama
- Author's Craft: Analyze the impact of author's choices and how playwrights develop character and theme in drama
- Compare interpretations and uses of drama across genres
- Informational Texts: Use evidence to understand context and impact

Use Language and Grammar

- Spelling
- Context Clues

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Performance

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a cause and effect essay
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Context Clues; Analyzing Word Choices


Essential Question

What happens when we betray our own values and morals?

What Is Your Path?

Students will begin to focus on the college essay and how their past experiences can inform their future. Through examples of personal statements and tips on how to write a college essay, students will enter their senior year with a completed college essay.


Mentor Texts




Multimedia
Lin Manuel Miranda's Commencement Speech
 By Will Geiger



Informational News Article
How to Write a College Essay
 By Kelly Mae Ross, Devon Haynie, and Josh Moody




Informational News Article
Choosing a Major in College: What to Know
 By Cole Claybourn




Informational Text
12 Strategies to Writing the Perfect College Essay
 By Pamela Reynolds


Read Across Genres



Informational Text
4 Great Personal Statement Examples and Why They Worked
 By Will Geiger




Informational Text
12 Personal Statement Examples + Analysis
 From College Essay Guy



Multimedia
Choosing the Perfect College Essay Topic!



Extension Activity
35+ Best College Application Tips from College Application Experts
 From College Essay Guy



Extension Activity
10 Steps to Choosing the Right College
 By Katy Hopkins and Sarah Wood

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Informational Text: Use evidence and central ideas from a variety of texts
- Author's Craft: Analyze how text features and connections within informational texts help develop central ideas
- Develop a robust understanding of the postsecondary process
- Extensions: Engage in activities to support postsecondary planning

Use Language and Grammar

- Revising for Clarity, Development, and Organization
- Figurative Language

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Panel Discussion

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write postsecondary plans
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

How do you describe how your past will inform your future?

What Is the Spirit of the People of the United States of America?

As students read historical documents, they will analyze the arguments as well as syntax and word choice. Through discussion and informal research, they will examine what the spirit of the people of the United States has been in the past and what it is today and how the two compare.

Mentor Texts



Historical Document
Declaration of Independence



Historical Documents
"Remember the Ladies" and "Give Bigotry No Sanction":
The Design of the Constitution



Speech
What to the Slave is the 4th of July? and Ain't I a Woman?
By Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth



Speech
Abraham Lincoln's Speeches
By Abraham Lincoln



Poetry
"I Hear America Singing" and "I, Too"
By Walt Whitman and Langston Hughes

Read Across Genres



Informal Research
Analyze 20th Century Speeches



Multimedia
America is in the Heart
By Carlos Bulosan



Multimedia
Hamilton Cast Performs 'Alexander Hamilton' at White House
From CBS News



Speech
Barack Obama Election Night Speech 2008 and George W. Bush's Address at the Flight 93 Memorial

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Informational Text: Analyze connections within informational texts
- Author's Craft: Analyze how various genres of literature and informational texts draw from other sources
- Develop a robust understanding of aspects of various literary forms and genres
- Extensions: Engage in informal research of a variety of myths and tales from across the globe

Use Language and Grammar

- Roots and Affixes
- Words that Capture Relationships
- Sentence Structure
- Revising for Clarity and Organization

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Socratic Discussion

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a Comparative Analysis
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Analyzing Verbs in Writing Prompts

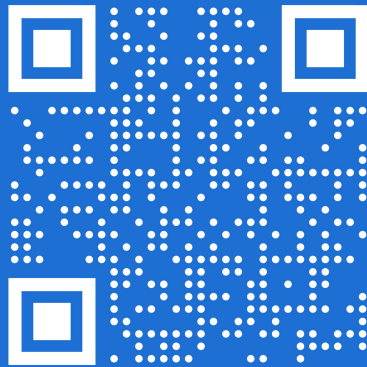
Essential Question

How do the foundational documents of the US and the texts that argue with and build upon them impact the way "We the people" define America?

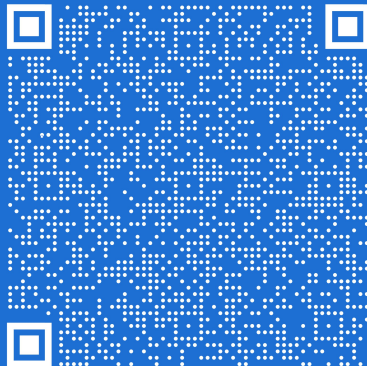
Next Steps

Ready to learn more about our Core ELA?

We'd love to partner and pilot Core with you! Scan the QR codes below to learn more or schedule a demo of Core ELA!



[Learn More](#)



[Schedule a Demo](#)