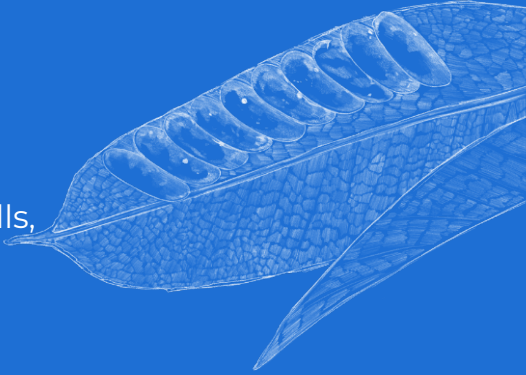




ELA Core Curriculum

for **GRADE 7**

 **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.

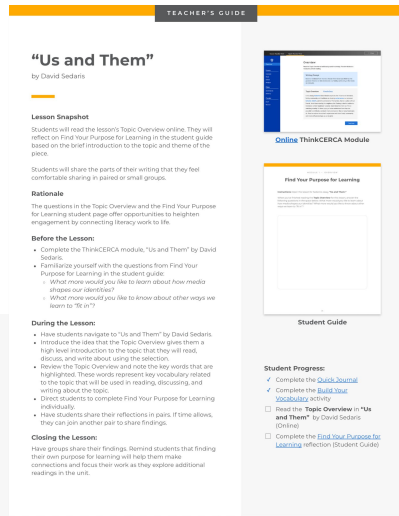


Ultimately, we espouse a pedagogy of confidence.

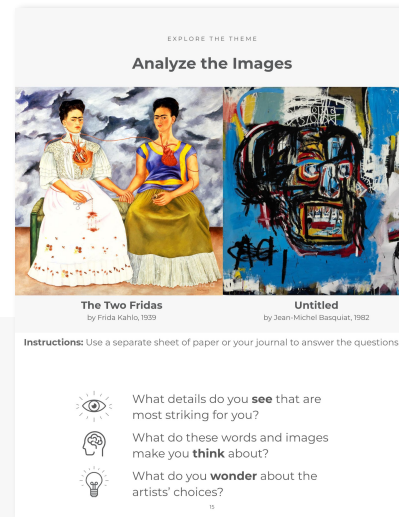
We truly believe that confident young people are the keys to the success of each and every one of our communities. This program is designed to help us spark courageous thinking!



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 supports 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 7 Core ELAR

Comprehensive Assessment Resources



Benchmarks



Continuous Embedded Assessment



AP/ACT/SAT Aligned Practice

1

Who Is in Your Circle?

How does your search for belonging impact friendships and your sense of self? Explore models of narrative nonfiction that examine growing up and becoming one's own person.

Portfolio: Narrative Essay Writing

2

What Impact Can Transportation Have?

What is the best way for people to move around their communities? Explore models of nonfiction arguments about technologies we use to ensure transportation is available for all.

Portfolio: Argumentative Essay Writing

3

How Do Beliefs Shape Reality?

Do we learn more from folktales, fables, and fairy tales, or from realistic stories? Read a variety of stories that build a strong foundation for how we think about the reality of the world around us.

Portfolio: Literary Analysis Essay Writing

4

What's the Problem with Plastic?

How can packaging be effective and sustainable? Learn more about sustainable communities and efforts by individuals to solve problems through for profit and non-for-profit entrepreneurship.

Portfolio: Research Essay

360 Degrees of Text

Grade 7 Core ELAR

5

What's Love Got to Do with It?

How can conflict develop when ideas and opinions change? Explore this question through a full-length drama and a variety of other pieces across genres.

Portfolio: Cause and Effect Essay Writing

6

What Do You Want to Do with Your Life?

What are the skills and career paths that are most likely to lead you to the future you hope to achieve? Explore readings about the future of work and the resources and frameworks for determining your pathway in life.

Portfolio: Research Paper

7

How Do We Understand Our Past Through Stories?

How does history play out in literature? How do writers use history to bring light to historical events? Read several stories and compare these stories to historical writings.

Portfolio: Comparative Literary Analysis



Sample Units

Who's In Your Circle?

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



Personal Narrative

The Coolness Equation

By Adam Gidwitz



Personal Narrative

Seventy-Six Dollars and Forty-Nine Cents: A Story in Verse

By Kwame Alexander



Personal Narrative

Fourth Grade Ukus

By Maria Hara



Short Story

Seventh Grade

By Gary Soto

Read Across Genres



Multimedia

Blue Kid on the Block

By This American Life



Poetry

Stomp

By Nikki Grimes



Poetry

This Morning I Pray for My Enemies

By Joy Harjo



Informational Text

Popular Kids Aren't that Special

By Joe Pinsker



Informational Text

Searching for Better, Cooler Friends Might Backfire

By Matthew Hutson

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 and Prediction

Essential Question

How does your search for belonging impact your friendships and sense of self?

What Impact Can Transportation Have?

Investigating real transportation issues that affect real people allows for students to build informed opinions on the ways communities should work today. From class participation to the use of technology and beyond, students investigate the ways communities can work better in the future.

Mentor Texts



Informational News Article
Building Better Drivers

By Dan Risch



Informational News Article
A Surprising Reason Preventing Some Students from Finishing College: Lack of Transportation

By Charlotte West



Informational News Article
A System In Sync: Smart Cars Need Smart Roads

Fiona Young-Brown



Informational Text
The Case for Making Public Transit Free Everywhere

By Nicole Kobie

Read Across Genres



Multimedia

Is Your City for People or Cars?

By Cornelia Dinca



Opinion

Unpopular Opinion: The Legal Driving Age Should Be Increased

By Maria Rowley



Opinion

Driving Ages Should Not Be Raised

By Muhammad Asharib



Photo Essay

Eight Unusual Transit Systems Around the World

By C. H. Kwak



Infographic

The Role of Transportation in Promoting Physical Activity

By Amanda Walker

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)

Exploring the Theme + Goal Setting

2-3 Days

Anchor Texts
Close Reading

10-15 Days

Additional Reading Across Genres

3-4 Days

Debate

2 Days

Portfolio Writing + Celebration

3-4 Days

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

What is the best way for people to move around their communities?

How Do Beliefs Shape Reality?

Short stories can give us a glimpse into new ideas and can help shape our thinking. In this unit, students look at the question, “How can stories set outside of everyday reality help us better understand our own lives?” to better understand how perception may be different from reality.

Mentor Texts



Short Story

All Summer in a Day

By Ray Bradbury



Short Story

Harrison Bergeron

By Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.



Short Story

Rainmaker

By Mazi Nwonu

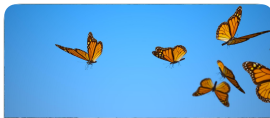


Short Story

Actually Naneen

By Malka Older

Read Across Genres



Poetry

the poem is a dream telling you its time

By Marwa Helal



Poetry

The Cry of the Cicada and An Ancient Pond

By Matsuo Basho



Multimedia

Short Fuse

By The CG Brothers



Informational News Article

Making Stranger Worlds

By Hannu Rajaniemi



Informational News Article

3D Glasses on Reality

By Kim Stanley Robinson

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

- Pronouns
- Context Clues
- Capitalization

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 stories set outside of everyday reality help us better understand our own lives?

What's the Problem with Plastic?

Students will examine what kinds of packaging society uses and how that affects sustainability. Through informational texts and multimedia, they will understand which materials are sustainable and which ones should be done away with.

Mentor Texts



Informational News Article

She Tried to Avoid Plastic While Grocery Shopping For a Week. Here's How It Went

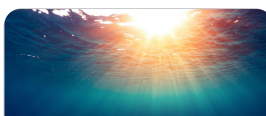
By Martha Bebinger



Informational Text

How The Plastic Bottle Went from Miracle Container to Hated Garbage

By Laura Parker



Informational News Article

In the Ocean, It's Snowing Microplastics

By Sabrina Imbler



Informational Text

Help for a World Drowning in Microplastics

By Sharon Oosthoek and Maria Temming

Read Across Genres



Informational Text

This 12-Year-Old Girl Built a Robot That Can Find Microplastics in the Ocean

By Rachael Lallensack



Informational News Article

A Young Entrepreneur Turns Plastic Waste into Water Bottles

By Daniel Cross



Multimedia

Our Choices Matter: Towards a Greener Planet



Opinion

There Are Some Single-Use Plastics We Truly Need. The Rest We Can Live Without

By Paul Harvey



Informational Text

Researchers Say Environmentally Conscious Shoppers Don't Bring Reusable Bags to the Store

By Jeff Kart

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

- Writing According to Style Manuals
- Revising for Style and Word Choice
- 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 packaging solutions are both sustainable and realistic?

What's Love Got to Do with It?

It's easy to get along with people when you have the same ideas and opinions. What happens when their ideas and opinions change? Students will examine this concept as they go through a Shakespearean drama, enhancing their understanding of language, performance, and rhythm.

Mentor Texts



Drama
A Midsummer Night's Dream: Act I
By William Shakespeare



Drama
A Midsummer Night's Dream: Act II
By William Shakespeare



Drama
A Midsummer Night's Dream: Act III
By William Shakespeare

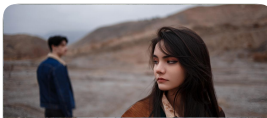


Drama
A Midsummer Night's Dream: Act IV
By William Shakespeare



Drama
A Midsummer Night's Dream: Act V
By William Shakespeare

Read Across Genres



Drama Excerpt
A Midsummer Night's Dream: Act III, Scene I
By William Shakespeare



Multimedia
Bottom Takes a Selfie



Multimedia
How to Rap Shakespeare



Informational Text
Shakespeare's Other World
By Kim Zarina



Informational Text
Fun With Words
By Diana Childress

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

- Sentence Structure
- Understanding Relationships Captured in Words

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

How can conflict develop when ideas and opinions change?

What Do You Want to Do with Your Life?

The world is ever-changing and careers that were not available ten years ago have opened up today. In this unit, students will learn how to develop the skills needed to prepare for an unknown future. They will also begin thinking about how to prepare a career path as they finish middle school and begin high school within the next several years.

Mentor Texts



Informational Text
Careers of the Future

By Rachel Kempster Barry



Informational Text
Exploring Postsecondary Options and Choosing What's Best for You

By Enilora Archeval Rivera



Informational Text
What is a Personality Test?

By Kendra Cherry



Informational Text
Go Your Own Way

By Terina Allen

Read Across Genres



Informational Text
Plotting a Course

By Jaime Joyce



Informational Text
Staying Curious

By Emily Cambias



Multimedia
How to Choose the Right Career Path in 7 Simple Steps

By Career Addict



Extension Activity
Career Interest Inventory

By ThinkCERCA staff



Extension Activity
Career Exploration

By US Bureau of Labor Statistics

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

What are the skills and knowledge that are likely serve us best in an unknown future?

How Do We Understand Our Past Through Stories?

In this comparative literature unit, students will read several novel excerpts. These historical fiction pieces look at important moments in time from various angles. Through the readings and some deeper understanding of how authors create literature, students will compare the pieces in a comparative literature essay.

Mentor Texts



Novel Excerpt

Call of the Wild

By Jack London



Poetry

Five Poems About Vietnam

By Leroy V. Quintana



Novel Excerpt

A Pair of Wings

By Carole Hopson



Novel Excerpt

In the Shadow of Blackbirds

By Cat Winters

Mentor Text Comparisons



Informational Text

Gold Fever! Deadly Cold! And the Amazing True Adventures of Jack London in the Wild

By Richard Grant



Informational Text

Vietnam War Summary



Multimedia

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

By U.S. Department of Defense



Informational News Article

Historical Fiction Novel Launches on Bessie Coleman Anniversary

By Alyssa J. Cobb



Informational Text

A Deadly Flu

By Barbara Krasner

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 fiction writers and poets retell history in a way that reveals timeless truths?

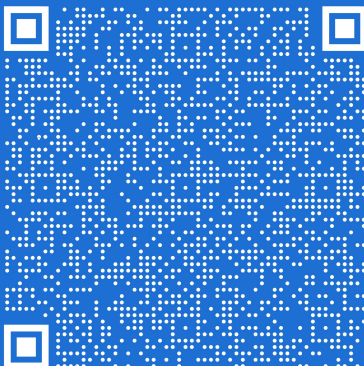
Next Steps

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