

Sixth Grade Communication Arts

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Grade 6 Communication Arts focuses on four methods of effective communication including writing, reading, listening, and speaking. Emphasis will be on practice, demonstration, and application of the acquired knowledge. Students will apply these skills for success in the classroom and in the future.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

READING

Goal 1: Develop and apply skills and strategies to the reading process

Objectives:

Fluency: Read grade-level instructional text

- a) with fluency: accuracy and expression
- b) adjusting reading rate to difficulty and type of text

Vocabulary: Develop vocabulary through text, using

- a) roots and affixes
- b) context clues
- c) glossary, dictionary, thesaurus, (CD-ROM) encyclopedia, and online resources
- d) Synonyms, antonyms, homophones, and multiple meaning words

Pre-Reading: Apply pre-reading strategies to aid comprehension

- a) access prior knowledge
- b) preview
- c) predict with evidence
- d) set a purpose and rate for reading

During Reading: During reading, utilize strategies to

- a) determine meaning of unknown words
- b) self-monitor comprehension
- c) question the text to clarify
- d) infer
- e) visualize
- f) paraphrase
- g) summarize
- h) identify author's use of 6+1 Traits of Writing[®]: Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions, and Presentation

Post-Reading: Apply post-reading skills to comprehend, interpret, analyze, and evaluate text

- a) identify and explain the relationship between the main idea and supporting details
- b) question to clarify
- c) reflect
- d) summarize
- e) paraphrase
- f) draw conclusions
- g) evaluate author's use of 6+1 Traits of Writing[®]: Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions, and Presentation

Making Connections: Compare, contrast and analyze connections

- a) text-to-text (information and relationships in various fiction and non-fiction works)
- b) text-to-self (text ideas and own experiences)
- c) text-to-world (text ideas and the world by identifying how literature reflects a culture and historic time frame)

Purpose for Reading: Develop habits of reading

- a) by selecting appropriate level materials for independent reading
- b) through sustained independent reading

Goal 2: Develop and apply skills and strategies to comprehend, analyze and evaluate fiction, poetry and drama from a variety of cultures and times

Objectives:

Text Features: Use grade level text to

- a) interpret and analyze information in title
- b) recognize and interpret the text features of fiction, poetry and drama

Literary Techniques: Identify and explain literary techniques, in text emphasizing

- a) onomatopoeia
- b) alliteration
- c) analyze literary techniques previously introduced

Literary Elements: Use details from text(s) to

- a) demonstrate comprehension skills previously introduced
- b) identify plot, including problem/conflict, climax, and resolution
- c) analyze the influence of setting on characters and plot
- d) explain cause and effect
- e) identify point of view
- f) identify the problem-solving processes of characters
- g) evaluate the effectiveness of solutions

Goal 3: Develop and apply skills and strategies to comprehend, analyze and evaluate nonfiction (such as biographies, newspapers, technical manuals) from a variety of cultures and times

Objectives:

Text Features:

- a) identify and explain text features in biography and autobiography
- b) analyze text features to clarify meaning, emphasizing newspapers and magazines

Literary Techniques: Identify and explain literary techniques and figurative language in nonfiction text, emphasizing

- a) onomatopoeia
- b) alliteration
- c) sound devices previously introduced

Text Structures: Use details from informational text to

- a) paraphrase author's stated ideas
- b) make predictions
- c) make inferences
- d) evaluate the accuracy of the information
- e) analyze the text
- f) sequence events
- g) compare and contrast
- h) compare author's viewpoints
- i) identify and explain cause and effect
- j) identify problem-solving processes and explain the effectiveness of solutions
- k) analyze two or more texts

Understanding Directions: Read and follow multi-step directions to complete a complex task

WRITING

Goal 1: Apply a writing process in composing text

Objectives:

Writing Process: Follow a writing process to

- a) use appropriate prewriting strategies
- b) generate a draft using 6+1 traits
- c) reread, revise for audience and purpose, ideas, and content, organization and sentence structure, and word choice (W2A, W2B, W2C, W2D)
- d) edit for conventions (W2E)
- e) share writing

Goal 2: Compose well-developed text

Objectives:

Audience and Purpose: Compose text

- a) showing awareness of audience
- b) choosing a form appropriate to topic and specific audience

Ideas and Content: Compose text with

- a) strong controlling idea
- b) relevant, specific details

Organization and Sentence Structure: Compose text with

- a) a clear beginning, middle, and end
- b) a logical sequence of events
- c) appropriate paragraphing
- d) cohesive devices
- e) a variety of sentence structures, including simple and compound

Word Choice: Compose text using

- a) precise and vivid language
- b) writing techniques such as figurative language, sensory detail, and purposeful dialogue

Conventions: In written text

- a) capitalize proper adjectives
- b) capitalize appropriate words in dialogue, with assistance
- c) use comma in compound sentences, apostrophe in irregular and plural possessives, quotation marks in dialogue, with assistance
- d) punctuate prepositional phrases and appositives correctly
- e) use standard spelling, classroom resources, including dictionary, to edit for correct spelling

Goal 3: Write effectively in various forms and types of writing

Objectives:

Forms/Types/Modes of Writing: Compose a variety of texts

- a) using narrative, descriptive, expository, and/or persuasive features
- b) including a summary (narrative or informational)

LISTENING AND SPEAKING

Goal 1: Develop and apply effective listening skills and strategies

Objectives:

Purpose for Listening: Listen

- a) for enjoyment
- b) for information
- c) for directions
- d) to identify and interpret tone, mood and emotion of verbal and nonverbal communication

Listening Behavior: Use active listening behaviors (e.g., ask questions of speaker and use appropriate body language and facial expressions to indicate agreement, disagreement, or confusion)

Goal 2: Develop and apply effective speaking skills and strategies for various audiences and purposes

Objectives:

Discussion and Presentation: In discussions and presentations,

- a) speak clearly and stay on topic
- b) use appropriate volume, tone of voice, rate of speech, fluency/inflections and eye contact

Giving Directions: Give clear and concise multi-step oral directions to perform complex procedures and/or tasks

INFORMATION LITERACY

Goal 1: Develop and apply effective research process skills to gather, analyze, and evaluate information

Objectives:

Research Plan: Develop questions and statements of purpose to guide research

Acquire Information: Locate and use resources to acquire information, answer questions, and support purpose

Record Information: Record relevant information using a variety of note-taking and organizational strategies then integrate research into oral and written presentations

Sources Consulted: Define plagiarism and document research sources

Goal 2: Develop and apply effective skills and strategies to analyze, evaluate, and use oral and visual media

Objective:

Media Messages: Identify and explain viewpoints conveyed in various media (e.g., videos, pictures, web-sites, artwork, plays, and/or news programs)

Technology: Use technology sources and devices to facilitate learning