



FAMILY GUIDE TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 6



Photo Credit: Topeka Public Schools USD 501

Academic standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. The **Kansas English Language Arts (KELA)** standards focus on reading, writing, speaking, listening and communication development. Your student's mastery of these academic standards ensures they are well prepared for life after high school graduation.

The KELA standards are a collection of skills that students should learn and be able to perform at advancing levels in order to meet the five foundational practice for language arts.

Language arts foundational practices:

- Speak, read and listen appropriately in all subject areas.
- Seek to understand different viewpoints.
- Use knowledge gained from reading and writing to help solve problems.
- Create different versions of texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Self-regulate and monitor growth in writing, speaking, reading and listening.

Example KELA expectations:

Engage in collaborative conversations by coming prepared to classroom discussions.

Pose and respond to a variety of questions with elaboration and detail.

Analyze how sections of text (chapters, scenes, stanzas) fit into the overall structure of the piece and contribute to the development of ideas of themes.

Absorb knowledge from materials that include diagrams and data to convey information.

Evaluate arguments and claims in written materials or a speech.

Distinguish among claims that are supported by reasons and evidence and those that are not.

Write arguments that support claims using clear reasoning and

relevant evidence.

Write/present reports that examine a topic and convey ideas and information through the selection, organization and analysis of relevant content.

Use a variety of transition words, phrases and clauses in writing.

Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing information from

multiple sources.

Paraphrase key ideas from a speaker or digital presentation.

Recognize variations from standard English in writing and speaking and use this knowledge to improve language use.

Determine the correct meaning of a word based on the context in which it is used.

What might this look like in a classroom?

Students in a language arts classroom should be able to ...

Write, speak, read and **listen** in all content areas to build knowledge.

Set goals and monitor their progress.

Solve problems.

Create meaning.

Think critically about real-world issues.

Develop a deep understanding of the world using foundational literacy practices.

Build on their literacy skills from prior years.

How can language arts help me in the real world?

In your job ...

- You will need to **understand** other points of view.
- You will need to **problem solve**.
- You will need to **communicate** with others effectively.

In your life ...

- You will need to **gather information** to make good decisions.
- You will need to **form opinions** and **support them** through action.
- You will need to know how to **express yourself through speaking** and **writing**.

Outside Resources

- **Learning Heros:** <https://belearninghero.org/learning-tools/parents/>
- **Parents' Guide to Students Success, National PTA:**
<https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success>
- **Kansas Vision for Education, Kansas State Department of Education:**
<http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Communications-and-Recognition-Programs/Vision-Kansans-Can>
- **Parent Toolkit:** <https://www.parenttoolkit.com/>
- **English Language Arts, KSDE:** www.ksde.org/ela

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