

## NC English Language Arts Standard Course of Study 9-10 Grade-Specific Standards

**READING STRAND:** K-12 Standards for Reading define what students should understand and be able to do by the *end of each grade*. Students should demonstrate their proficiency of these standards both orally and through writing. For students to be college and career ready, they must read from a wide range of high-quality, increasingly challenging literary and informational texts. One of the key requirements of the Standards for Reading is that all students must be able to comprehend texts of steadily increasing complexity as they progress through school. Students should also acquire the habits of reading closely and independently for sustained periods of time. They need to connect prior knowledge and experiences to text. They must also show a steadily growing ability to discern more from and make fuller use of text.

### Reading Standards for Literature

#### *Key Ideas and Evidence*

RL.9-10.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

RL.9-10.2 Determine a theme of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

RL.9-10.3 Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

#### *Craft and Structure*

RL.9-10.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone.

RL.9-10.5 Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it, and manipulate time create effects such as mystery, tension, or surprise.

RL.9-10.6 Analyze a particular perspective or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature.

#### *Integration of Ideas and Analysis*

RL.9-10.7 Analyze the representation of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums, including what is emphasized or absent in each treatment.

RL.9-10.8 Not applicable to literature.

RL.9-10.9 Analyze how an author adopts or adapts source material in a specific work.

#### *Range of Reading and Level of Complexity*

RL.9-10.10 By the end of grade 9, read and understand literature within the 9-10 text complexity band proficiently and independently for sustained periods of time. Connect prior knowledge and experiences to text.

By the end of grade 10, read and understand literature at the high end of the 9-10 text complexity band proficiently and independently for sustained periods of time. Connect prior knowledge and experiences to text.

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### Reading Standards for Informational Text

#### *Key Ideas and Evidence*

- RI.9-10.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- RI.9-10.2 Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
- RI.9-10.3 Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them.

#### *Craft and Structure*

- RI.9-10.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone.
- RI.9-10.5 Analyze how an author's ideas or claims are developed and refined by particular sentences, paragraphs, or larger portions of a text.
- RI.9-10.6 Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose.

#### *Integration of Ideas and Analysis*

- RI.9-10.7 Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums, determining which details are emphasized in each account.
- RI.9-10.8 Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning.
- RI.9-10.9 Analyze influential documents of historical and literary significance, including how they address related themes and concepts.

#### *Range of Reading and Level of Complexity*

- RI.9-10.10 By the end of grade 9, read and understand informational texts within the 9-10 text complexity band proficiently and independently for sustained periods of time. Connect prior knowledge and experiences to text.  
By the end of grade 10, read and understand informational texts at the high end of the 9-10 text complexity band proficiently and independently for sustained periods of time. Connect prior knowledge and experiences to text.

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**WRITING STRAND:** To be college and career ready, students should learn how to offer and support opinions/arguments, demonstrate understanding of a topic under study, and convey real and/or imagined experiences. Students learn that a key purpose of writing is to communicate clearly and coherently. The NC ELA Writing Standards emphasize the importance of writing routinely in order to build knowledge and demonstrate understanding. The complete writing process (from prewriting to editing) is clear in the first three writing standards. These standards define what students should understand and be able to do by *the end of each grade*.

### Writing Standards

#### *Text Types, Purposes, and Publishing*

- W.9-10.1 Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- a. Organize information and ideas around a topic to plan and prepare to write.
  - b. Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
  - c. Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly, supplying evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level and concerns.
  - d. Use words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.
  - e. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
  - f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
  - g. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
- W.9-10.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- a. Organize information and ideas around a topic to plan and prepare to write.
  - b. Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions; include formatting, graphics, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
  - c. Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
  - d. Use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
  - e. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic.
  - f. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
  - g. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
  - h. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.

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- W.9-10.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
- a. Organize information and ideas around a topic to plan and prepare to write.
  - b. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
  - c. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
  - d. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.
  - e. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
  - f. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.
  - g. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.

*Research*

- W.9-10.4 Use digital tools and resources to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.
- W.9-10.5 Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
- W.9-10.6 Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

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**SPEAKING AND LISTENING STRAND:** The K-12 Speaking and Listening Standards define what students should understand and be able to do by the *end of each grade*. To become college and career ready, teachers must provide students with ample opportunities to communicate their thinking orally through a variety of rich, structured conversations either in whole group or in small group settings, or with a partner. To be a productive part of these conversations, students need to contribute accurate information, respond and build on the ideas of others, use data and evidence effectively, and listen attentively to others.

### Speaking and Listening Standards

#### *Collaboration and Communication*

- SL.9-10.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
- Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.
  - Work with peers to set rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, clear goals and deadlines, and individual roles as needed.
  - Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions.
  - Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views and understanding and make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.
- SL.9-10.2 Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source.
- SL.9-10.3 Evaluate a speaker’s point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, identifying any fallacious reasoning or exaggerated or distorted evidence.

#### *Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas*

- SL.9-10.4 Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.
- SL.9-10.5 Make strategic use of digital media in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.

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**LANGUAGE STRAND:** Language skills are inseparable from and vital to reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Even though these skills are in a separate strand, it is important for students to use effective and correct language skills in all contexts. The NC ELA Language Standards emphasize the use of accurate language skills, not just the identification of accurate language skills. The Grammar and Conventions Grade Band Continuums allow for differentiation and re-teaching as needed. It is important that students begin to demonstrate proficiency in the lower grade(s) of each band, while students in the highest grade of the band should demonstrate proficiency of the listed language skills by the *end of the school year*.

### Language Standards

#### *Conventions of Standard English*

- L.9-10.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking; demonstrate proficiency within the 9-12 grammar continuum. (See Language Standards – Grammar Continuum page 7.)
- L.9-10.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing; demonstrate proficiency within the 9-12 conventions continuum. (See Language Standards – Conventions Continuum page 10.)

#### *Knowledge of Language*

- L.9-10.3 Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
- Write and edit work so that it conforms to the guidelines in a style manual appropriate for the discipline and writing type.
  - Use parallel structure.

#### *Vocabulary Acquisition and Use*

- L.9-10.4 Determine and/or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9–10 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies: context clues, word parts, word relationships, and reference materials.
- L.9-10.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language and nuances in word meanings.
- Interpret figures of speech in context and analyze their role in the text based on grades 9-10 reading and content.
  - Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.
- L.9-10.6 Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in developing vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

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**Language Standards – Grammar Continuum**

SKILL	K-1	2-3	4-5	6-8	9-12
<b>Subject/Verb Agreement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use singular and plural nouns with matching verbs in basic sentences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure subject/verb agreement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to ensure subject/verb agreement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to ensure subject/verb agreement</li> </ul>	<p>Students apply grammar and usage skills to create a unique style and voice when writing or speaking with increasing sophistication and effect in grades 9-12. Skills taught in previous grades should be reinforced and expanded.</p>
<b>Nouns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form frequently occurring nouns; form regular plural nouns (/s/ or /es/)</li> <li>Use common, proper, &amp; possessive nouns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the function of nouns</li> <li>Use collective nouns (such as <i>group</i>)</li> <li>Form and use frequently occurring regular and irregular plural nouns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use abstract nouns (such as <i>courage</i>)</li> <li>Continue to use regular and irregular plural nouns</li> </ul>		
<b>Verbs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form frequently occurring verbs</li> <li>Convey sense of time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the function of verbs</li> <li>Form and use past tense of frequently occurring irregular verbs</li> <li>Form and use regular and irregular verbs</li> <li>Form and use simple verb tenses</li> <li>Form and use the perfect verb tenses</li> <li>Convey sense of various times, sequences</li> <li>Recognize inappropriate shifts in verb tense</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form and use progressive verb tenses</li> <li>Use modal auxiliaries (such as <i>may</i> or <i>must</i>)</li> <li>Continue to form and use the perfect verb tenses</li> <li>Convey sense of various times, sequences, states, and conditions</li> <li>Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the function of verbals (such as <i>gerunds</i> or <i>participles</i>)</li> <li>Form and use verbs in active &amp; passive voice</li> <li>Form and use indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional moods</li> <li>Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in voice and mood</li> <li>Form and use transitive/intransitive verbs</li> </ul>	
<b>Adjectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use frequently occurring adjectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the function of adjectives</li> <li>Accurately choose which to use – adjective or adverb</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form and use comparative and superlative adjectives and accurately choose which to use – adjective or adverb</li> <li>Order adjectives within sentences according to conventional patterns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form and use compound adjectives</li> </ul>	

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SKILL	K-1	2-3	4-5	6-8	9-12
<b>Conjunctions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use frequently occurring conjunctions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the function of conjunctions</li> <li>Use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions</li> <li>Use correlative conjunctions (such as <i>either/or</i>)</li> </ul>		<p>Students apply grammar and usage skills to create a unique style and voice when writing or speaking with increasing sophistication and effect in grades 9-12. Skills taught in previous grades should be reinforced and expanded.</p>
<b>Adverbs</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accurately choose which to use – adjective or adverb</li> <li>Explain the function of adverbs</li> <li>Form and use comparative adverbs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form and use comparative and superlative adverbs</li> <li>Use relative adverbs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use adverbs that modify adjectives</li> <li>Use adverbs that modify adverbs</li> </ul>	
<b>Sentences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce and expand simple, compound, declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences</li> <li>Understand and use question words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce, expand, and rearrange simple and compound sentences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce complete sentences, while recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-on sentences</li> <li>Produce, expand, and rearrange simple, compound, and complex sentences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to produce complete sentences, while recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-on sentences</li> <li>Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas</li> </ul>	
<b>Prepositions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use frequently occurring prepositions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the function of prepositions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form and use prepositional phrases</li> </ul>		
<b>Pronouns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use personal, possessive, and indefinite pronouns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the function of pronouns</li> <li>Continue to use personal, possessive, and indefinite pronouns</li> <li>Use reflexive pronouns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure pronoun-antecedent agreement</li> <li>Use relative pronouns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (<i>subjective, objective, possessive</i>)</li> <li>Use intensive pronouns</li> <li>Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person</li> </ul>	

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SKILL	K-1	2-3	4-5	6-8	9-12
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize and correct vague pronouns</li> <li>Continue to ensure pronoun-antecedent agreement</li> <li>Recognize and apply the nominative case and objective case</li> </ul>	<p>Students apply grammar and usage skills to create a unique style and voice when writing or speaking with increasing sophistication and effect in grades 9-12. Skills taught in previous grades should be reinforced and expanded.</p>
<b>Determiners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use determiners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correctly use <i>a, an,</i> and <i>the</i></li> </ul>			
<b>Commonly Confused Words</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correctly use common homophones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correctly use frequently confused words (such as <i>to, two, too</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to correctly use frequently confused words</li> </ul>	
<b>Interjections</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the function of and use interjections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to use interjections</li> </ul>		
<b>Phrases and Clauses</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the function of phrases and clauses</li> <li>Recognize independent and dependent phrases and clauses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences</li> <li>Place phrases and clauses within a sentence and recognize/correct misplaced and dangling modifiers</li> <li>Form and use indirect/direct objects</li> </ul>	
<b>Usage</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize variations from standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking</li> <li>Identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language</li> </ul>	

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**Language Standards – Conventions Continuum**

Skill	K-1	2-3	4-5	6-8	9-12
<b>Capitalization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capitalize the first word in a sentence</li> <li>• Capitalize the pronoun “I”</li> <li>• Capitalize dates and names of people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capitalize holidays</li> <li>• Capitalize product names</li> <li>• Capitalize geographic names</li> <li>• Capitalize appropriate words in titles</li> <li>• Use correct capitalization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capitalize appropriate words in titles</li> <li>• Continue to use correct capitalization</li> </ul>		<p>Students apply conventions to create a unique style and voice when writing or speaking with increasing sophistication and effect in grades 9-12. Skills taught in previous grades should be reinforced and expanded.</p>
<b>Punctuation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize end punctuation</li> <li>• Name end punctuation</li> <li>• Use end punctuation for sentences</li> <li>• Use commas in dates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use commas to separate single words in a series</li> <li>• Use commas in greetings and closings of letters</li> <li>• Use an apostrophe to form contractions</li> <li>• Use an apostrophe to form frequently occurring possessives</li> <li>• Use commas in addresses</li> <li>• Use commas in dialogue</li> <li>• Form and use possessives</li> <li>• Use quotation marks in dialogue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use punctuation to separate items in a series</li> <li>• Continue to use commas in addresses</li> <li>• Continue to use commas in dialogue</li> <li>• Continue to use quotation marks in dialogue</li> <li>• Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence</li> <li>• Use commas and quotations to mark direct speech and quotations from a text</li> <li>• Use a comma to separate an introductory element from the rest of a sentence</li> <li>• Use a comma to set off the words yes and no</li> <li>• Use a comma to set off a tag question from the rest of the sentence</li> <li>• Use a comma to indicate a direct address</li> <li>• Use underlining, quotation marks, or italics to indicate titles of works</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use punctuation to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements</li> <li>• Use a comma to separate coordinate adjectives</li> <li>• Use punctuation to indicate a pause or break</li> <li>• Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission</li> <li>• Use a semicolon to link two or more closely related independent clauses</li> <li>• Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation</li> <li>• Apply hyphen conventions</li> </ul>	

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Skill	K-1	2-3	4-5	6-8	9-12
<b>Spelling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write a letter or letters for most consonant and short-vowel sounds</li> <li>• Spell simple words phonetically, drawing on knowledge of sound-letter relationships</li> <li>• Spell untaught words phonetically, drawing on knowledge of phonemic awareness and spelling conventions</li> <li>• Use conventional spelling for words with common spelling patterns and for frequently occurring grade appropriate irregular words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use conventional spelling for high frequency and other studied words and for adding suffixes to base words</li> <li>• Use spelling patterns and generalizations (such as <i>word families, position-based spellings, syllable patterns, ending rules, and meaningful word parts</i>) when writing words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to use conventional spelling for high frequency words and other studied words</li> <li>• Continue to use conventional spelling for adding suffixes to base words</li> <li>• Continue to use spelling patterns and generalizations when writing words</li> <li>• Spell grade-appropriate words correctly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistently apply conventional rules to spell words correctly</li> </ul>	<p>Students apply conventions to create a unique style and voice when writing or speaking with increasing sophistication and effect in grades 9-12. Skills taught in previous grades should be reinforced and expanded.</p>
<b>References</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult reference materials as needed to check and correct spellings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to consult reference materials as needed to check and correct spellings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to consult reference materials as needed to check and correct spellings</li> </ul>	