English Language Arts   Grade 7

Days 1 & 2

Genre: Poetry

Task: Read three or more poems. Read at least 2 poems and complete the activity below on Day 1. Choose 2 or more different poems and complete the activity below on day 2.

Day 1 & 2 Directions:

1. Chose at least three poems to read:
    a. https://allpoetry.com/famous-poems
    b. https://poets.org/

2. For each poem that you read, select a line or two that you think is particularly well-written. Copy down the line(s) and write a response explaining what you noticed the poet did to create such a strong piece of writing.

*These web sites are not controlled or approved by the NYC Department of Education

While you read:

- Many forms of poetry frequently use imagery, figurative language and sound devices to create meaning.
- It often helps to read a poem multiple times to interpret its meaning. It also helps to divide the poem into smaller sections – for example by stanzas or by lines. As you read each section, think about these two big questions: What is actually happening in this section? And what does it mean?
- After you have read three poems of your choice, compare and contrast how each poet uses poetic devices such as rhyme, repetition, alliteration, line breaks, or white space to create meaning.

Days 3 & 4

Genre: Poetry
Task: Write a poem.

Day 3 Directions:
Write a poem that tells an important story from your life.
Brainstorm & Draft

While you write:

- To generate ideas for your piece, brainstorm a list of important moments in your life. For example, these could be moments when you learned something important, when you felt particularly proud or when you shared an experience with a special person.
- Use some of the poetic devices such as rhyme, repetition, alliteration, line breaks, or white space to create meaning.
- Be sure to use sensory details to help the reader picture the images in the poem.
- As you draft your poem, pay attention to how you arrange words on the page. Think about how line breaks and white space can impact the sound and meaning of your poem.

Day 4 Directions:
Revise & Finalize

Days 5 & 6

Genre: Pro/Con Article
Task: Read two or more pro/con articles.

Day 5 Directions:

1. Read the following article:

*   "The Pros and Cons of Electronic Textbooks"
http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-08-07/features/ct-x-0807-college-kids-eyes-20130807_1_print-textbooks-digital-textbooks-computer-vision-syndrome

Or choose an article of interest at:
http://galesupport.com/novelGeo/novelGeoLink.php?loc=nysl_me_nycitysl&db=OVIC

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2. After you have finished reading, write a summary of the article. Then write a short response about how the article has influenced your thinking on the topic.

Day 6 Directions:

1. Read the following article:
*   "Teen tracking Apps: Good Parenting or Risky?"
http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/personal/2014/09/17/teens-parents-tracking-apps-security-mamabear-teensafe/15716335/

2. After you have finished reading, write a summary of the article. Then write a short response about how the article has influenced your thinking on the topic.

While you read:

*   Pro/Con articles give both sides to an issue. The writer presents both the benefits (pro) and the drawbacks (con) surrounding a topic or issue without explicitly stating his or her opinion.
*   As you read an article, pay attention to details the writer shares about the topic. You may want to label which details are positive and which are negative.
*   As you read, jot down any questions you have. These questions can be based on parts you find confusing or parts you want to know more about.
*   After you have read two articles, compare and contrast how each writer develops the central idea in the article. You could compare how the writers use facts, examples, quotations and other supporting details, how the ideas are organized or the tone of the articles.

Days 7 & 8

Genre: Pro/Con Article
Task: Write a pro/con article.

Day 7 Directions:
Write an article explaining the benefits (pro) and drawbacks (con) of technology in teenagers' lives. Today research, brainstorm, and draft

Day 8 Direction:
Revise & Finalize

While you write:

- The purpose of a pro/con article is to inform the reader and explain both sides of an issue. It is not a place to share your opinion and try to persuade the reader to agree with you. In your article, you will include some positive aspects of technology and some negative aspects.
- Brainstorm a list of how technology can benefit teenagers, both in school and out of school. Then make a list of how technology can negatively impact a teenager. Think of specific supporting details that illustrate your points, including examples and anecdotes from your life. You may also want to research the topic to find facts and quotations from reliable sources to include in your article.
- Be sure to include an introduction that sparks a reader's interest and clearly states your topic and a conclusion that ties the article together and leaves the reader with something to think about. You can refer to the articles provided for Day 1 as models for how to structure your article.

Days 9 & 10

Independent Reading

Directions:
Read a book of your choosing. Write the title and author below.

* A note to parents and guardians: Talk with your children about the books they are reading.

If you would like an e-book, go to https://www.nypl.org/books-music-movies/ebookcentral

Title: _____

Author: _____

After Reading:

Read the next chapter in the book of your choice and identify one or two key ideas that you find especially interesting and important. Write specific details from the text that give information about the key ideas.

Complete the Key Ideas chart:

Important and interesting ideas	Specific details from the text

Writing: Using the information you recorded in your Key Ideas chart, write a paragraph to analyze why one or more key ideas you identified are especially interesting and important. Include specific details from the text that support your analysis.