

# A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



Reading, Writing,  
and Communicating

Eleventh Grade

## Working Together

To support families and teachers in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this guide provides an overview of the learning expectations for eleventh grade reading, writing, and communicating and offers some possible learning experiences students may engage in during this school year.

## Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are ultimately successful in college, careers, and life. The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in ten content areas, emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century.

## Reading, Writing, and Communicating for High Schools (9-12)

The reading, writing, and communicating standards at middle and high school grades ask students to be critical readers of complex literary and informational texts. The standards require that students develop the writing skills necessary to convey their experience in the world, to produce thoughtful analyses of academic and real-world topics, and to develop well-reasoned arguments on relevant topics in their lives. The standards foster opportunities for students to work collaboratively with others as they develop the literacy skills to be academically successful and prepared for life after high school.

## Where can I learn more?

- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Vince Puzick, Reading, Writing, and Communicating Content Specialist at 303-319-9519, [Puzick\\_v@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Puzick_v@cde.state.co.us)



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# At the end of Eleventh Grade, students can...



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## Reading, Writing, and Communicating Learning Expectations for Eleventh Grade

### Oral Expression and Listening

Speak and make strategic use of multimedia to clarify information, strengthen claims, and add interest; present a distinct perspective so that listeners can follow the reasoning, build their understanding, and consider responses to alternative or opposing perspectives; accurately evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, use of evidence, and rhetoric; assess the ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, tone, credibility and accuracy of a speaker's sources; participate in group discussions by being prepared, actively listening, and contributing to the discussion.

### Reading for All Purposes

Read a variety of texts, including foundational literary and historical texts from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries; summarize and analyze themes and central ideas; examine the impact of an author's choices regarding complex story elements; determine the meaning of words and their impact on tone and message; understand an author's point of view by determining what is stated (and meant) and by analyzing multiple versions of the text; analyze and evaluate reasoning in nonfiction and argumentative texts, explaining how an author's use of structure and evidence contributes to the writing.

### Writing and Composition

Write for authentic, targeted audiences and respond to ongoing feedback; make an effective argument or explain complex ideas; organize content and make important connections supported by significant facts, definitions, details, and quotations; use simile, metaphor and analogy

to increase impact; write narratives to express real or imagined experiences and using narrative techniques to create an engaging story.

### Research and Reasoning

Conduct short and long research projects to answer a question or solve a problem; demonstrate understanding by bringing together authoritative sources through the use of advanced searches and by assessing the strengths and weaknesses of each source; integrate important information into a research project; avoid plagiarism and overreliance on one source; follow a standard format for citation; examine the reasoning in significant U.S. texts, including the application of constitutional principles and the use of argument and legal reasoning in works of public advocacy.

## Throughout the Eleventh Grade, you may find students...

- Comparing past and contemporary author's use of setting and characters to understand how societal influences impact an author's writing.
- Using a variety of sources – academic, literary, historical – to research and evaluate claims made by others on a major social issue, such as censorship, in order to write a commentary that argues a specific stance; using evidence from research to support an argument, and using examples from past and/or current events and works of literature to illustrate and clarify an argument.
- Working with partners to develop texts (a class literary magazine, blog, video) to present multiple perspectives on an issue or theme.