

# UNDERSTANDING THE 8TH GRADE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

## READING: INFORMATIONAL TEXT

Common Core State Standard	"I Can" Paraphrase
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.1</p> <p><i>Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.</i></p>	<p>I can use details from the text to make conclusions and educated guesses.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.2</p> <p><i>Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.</i></p>	<p>I can pull main ideas from the text and summarize them.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.3</p> <p><i>Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).</i></p>	<p>I can compare and contrast the people and ideas presented in the text.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.4</p> <p><i>Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.</i></p>	<p>I can figure out the meanings of words in the text and describe how these words affect the text.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.5</p>	<p>I can explain how a paragraph's structure affects its meaning.</p>

<p><i>Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.</i></p>	
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.6</i></p> <p><i>Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.</i></p>	<p>I can notice the author's purpose and how the author defends it.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.7</i></p> <p><i>Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.</i></p>	<p>I can evaluate alternative ways of presenting the ideas in the text.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.8</i></p> <p><i>Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.</i></p>	<p>I can determine whether or not an argument makes sense and is well supported.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.9</i></p> <p><i>Analyze a case in which two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation.</i></p>	<p>I can judge two texts' presentations of the same ideas.</p>

## SPEAKING & LISTENING

Common Core State Standard	"I Can" Paraphrase
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1</p> <p><i>Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.</i></p>	<p>I can participate in group discussion.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1.A</p> <p><i>Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.</i></p>	<p>I can do research before discussions and later cite the information I find.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1.B</p> <p><i>Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.</i></p>	<p>I can follow discussion format and my progress over time.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1.C</p> <p><i>Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas.</i></p>	<p>I can ask questions and give answers that are related to important topics.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1.D</p> <p><i>Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented.</i></p>	<p>I can defend my positions when others give new viewpoints.</p>

<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.2</i></p> <p><i>Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.</i></p>	<p>I can understand pictures, videos, and other media and explain the purposes behind them.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.3</i></p> <p><i>Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.</i></p>	<p>I can analyze an argument and judge the evidenced used to support it.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.4</i></p> <p><i>Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.</i></p>	<p>I can give complete, well-supported presentations.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.5</i></p> <p><i>Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.</i></p>	<p>I can use posters, PowerPoint, and other displays in my presentations.</p>

## WRITING

Common Core State Standard	"I Can" paraphrase
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.1</p> <p><i>Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.</i></p>	<p>I can write well-supported arguments.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.1.A</p> <p><i>Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.</i></p>	<p>I can make my own claims, dispute others' claims, and organize my ideas.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.1.B</p> <p><i>Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.</i></p>	<p>I can support my claims with evidence from credible sources.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.1.C</p> <p><i>Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.</i></p>	<p>I can logically connect the ideas in my writing.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.1.D</p> <p><i>Establish and maintain a formal style.</i></p>	<p>I can write using formal word choice and format.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.1.E</p> <p><i>Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.</i></p>	<p>I can write a conclusion.</p>

<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.2</p> <p><i>Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.</i></p>	<p>I can write to inform or explain.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.2.A</p> <p><i>Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.</i></p>	<p>I can write a clear introduction with appropriate formatting and graphics.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.2.B</p> <p><i>Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.</i></p>	<p>I can include relevant information when writing about a topic.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.2.C</p> <p><i>Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.</i></p>	<p>I can make smooth transitions between ideas and concepts.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.2.D</p> <p><i>Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.</i></p>	<p>I can write using appropriate vocabulary for the topic.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.2.E</p> <p><i>Establish and maintain a formal style.</i></p>	<p>I can write using formal word choice and format.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.2.F</p>	<p>I can write a conclusion.</p>

<p><i>Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.</i></p>	
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3</i></p> <p><i>Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.</i></p>	<p>I can write a narrative that tells a story.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3.A</i></p> <p><i>Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.</i></p>	<p>I can write from a specific point of view, include characters, and tell the story from beginning to end.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3.B</i></p> <p><i>Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.</i></p>	<p>I can write with good storytelling skills.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3.C</i></p> <p><i>Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another, and show the relationships among experiences and events.</i></p>	<p>I can use transitions in my writing to show time and relationships.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3.D</i></p> <p><i>Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.</i></p>	<p>I can use compelling language to describe experiences and events.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3.E</i></p>	<p>I can write a conclusion.</p>

<p><i>Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.</i></p>	
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.4</i></p> <p><i>Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)</i></p>	<p>I can write with a specific goal and audience in mind.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.5</i></p> <p><i>With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1-3 up to and including grade 8 <a href="#">here</a>.)</i></p>	<p>I can edit and revise my writing with input from others.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.6</i></p> <p><i>Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently as well as to interact and collaborate with others.</i></p>	<p>I can publish my writing online and interact with others on the internet.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.7</i></p> <p><i>Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.</i></p>	<p>I can research the answers to my questions and ask more questions on the subject.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.8</i></p> <p><i>Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of</i></p>	<p>I can find accurate information from credible print and digital sources and then cite these sources correctly.</p>

<p><i>each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.</i></p>	
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.9</p> <p><i>Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.</i></p>	<p>I can use outside texts to support my ideas.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.9.A</p> <p><i>Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literature (e.g., "Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new").</i></p>	<p>I can analyze literature.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.9.B</p> <p><i>Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., "Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced").</i></p>	<p>I can analyze literary nonfiction.</p>
<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.10</p> <p><i>Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.</i></p>	<p>I can do both long-term and short-term writing projects in the given time frames.</p>

## LANGUAGE

Common Core Standard	"I can" Paraphrase
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1</i>  <i>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</i></p>	<p>I can use proper grammar in my writing and speaking.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1.A</i>  <i>Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences.</i></p>	<p>I can explain how verbs can be used as adjectives and nouns.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1.B</i>  <i>Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice.</i></p>	<p>I can write sentences where the subject "does" the verb. I can write sentences where the verb is "done" to the subject.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1.C</i>  <i>Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood.</i></p>	<p>I can write sentences using verb forms that state facts, give commands, ask questions, and describe situations that might happen.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1.D</i>  <i>Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.*</i></p>	<p>I can understand that verb tense and mood should be consistent.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.2</i>  <i>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.</i></p>	<p>I can use correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.2.A</i>  <i>Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break</i></p>	<p>I can use the correct punctuation to show where the reader should pause.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.2.B</i>  <i>Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission.</i></p>	<p>I can show that I have left out words by using an ellipsis (...).</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.2.C</i>  <i>Spell correctly.</i></p>	<p>I can spell correctly.</p>

<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.3</i>  <i>Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.</i></p>	<p>I can use correct English and grammar in my writing, speaking, reading, and listening.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.3.A</i>  <i>Use verbs in the active and passive voice and in the conditional and subjunctive mood to achieve particular effects (e.g., emphasizing the actor or the action; expressing uncertainty or describing a state contrary to fact).</i></p>	<p>I can use grammatical techniques (making the subject “do” the verb or suggesting that something may happen) with a goal in mind of how I want the reader to feel.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4</i>  <i>Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on grade 8 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.</i></p>	<p>I can figure out what new words mean by using context clues and other strategies.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4.A</i>  <i>Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.</i></p>	<p>I can examine the text around a word I don't know to help me figure out what the word means.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4.B</i>  <i>Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., precede, recede, secede).</i></p>	<p>I can notice Greek and Latin roots in a word to figure out what it means.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4.C</i>  <i>Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.</i></p>	<p>I can use outside resources to figure out what words mean and how to pronounce them.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4.D</i>  <i>Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).</i></p>	<p>I can make an educated guess at a word's meaning and then look up the definition to be sure.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.5</i>  <i>Demonstrate understanding of figurative</i></p>	<p>I can understand complex word meanings and examples where words are not used literally.</p>

<p><i>language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</i></p>	
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.5.A</i></p> <p><i>Interpret figures of speech (e.g. verbal irony, puns) in context.</i></p>	<p>I can understand irony, puns, and other examples where words mean more than their definitions.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.5.B</i></p> <p><i>Use the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words.</i></p>	<p>I can compare related words to each other to help me understand each word.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.5.C</i></p> <p><i>Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., bullheaded, willful, firm, persistent, resolute).</i></p>	<p>I can tell the difference among words that have similar definitions but different undertones.</p>
<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.6</i></p> <p><i>Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.</i></p>	<p>I can use 8th grade vocabulary words and continue to learn new words that will help me better understand and apply the text.</p>