



IXL Skill Alignment

8th Grade alignment for Units of Study for Teaching Writing



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Unit 1

Investigative Journalism

Bend I: Reporting the Real Story: Newscasts

Textbook section	IXL skills
Session 1: Journalists Develop Their Powers of Observation to Capture Events	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read and understand informational passages <small>BYP</small> 2. Remove redundant words or phrases <small>JHX</small>
Session 2: Turning Moments of Drama into Cogent Newscasts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formatting quotations and dialogue <small>B7V</small>
Session 3: Researching and Reporting Experience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the narrative point of view <small>XL9</small> 2. Compare passages for tone <small>NSM</small>
Session 4: Making Short Nonfiction Writing Pack a Punch	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the difference between related words <small>V9F</small> 2. Organize information by main idea <small>2CA</small>
Session 5: Setting Ambitious Goals and Publishing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Correct capitalization errors <small>G8Q</small> 2. What does the punctuation suggest? <small>7H6</small>

Bend II: Investigative Journalism: Writing to Inform and Illuminate

Textbook section	IXL skills
Session 6: Journalists Delve Deeply to Reveal Underlying Issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Order topics from broadest to narrowest <small>JBM</small> 2. Choose between subject and object pronouns <small>SXR</small>
Session 7: Harnessing Narrative Craft to Reveal Central Ideas and Stir Empathy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify sensory details <small>9JT</small>
Session 8: Harnessing Narrative and Information Writing Techniques to Engage the Reader	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distinguish facts from opinions <small>LSW</small>
Session 9: Elaborating to Deepen Readers' Connections	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Positive and negative connotation <small>XY6</small> 2. Interpret the meaning of an allusion from its source <small>CHG</small>

Session 10: Writing Partners Have Each Other's Backs

1. Correct errors in everyday use HCU
2. Correct errors with frequently confused words PH9

Session 11: Attending to Voice and Verb Tense when Editing for Publication

1. Identify active and passive voice WBA
2. Rewrite the sentence in active voice W2F
3. Simple past, present, and future tense: review 6FT

Bend III: Investigating the Bigger Story

Textbook section	IXL skills
Session 12: Mentoring Oneself to a Pro to Envision the Arc of Investigative Reporting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognize the parts of a Works Cited entry (MLA 8th edition) SCY
Session 13: Expanding a Repertoire of Research Tools	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use in-text citations (MLA 8th edition) ZP8 2. Identify plagiarism TLM
Session 14: Structuring Investigative Pieces and Leading the Reader with Key Transitions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transitions with conjunctive adverbs 6VK
Session 15: Crafting Endings that Call Readers to Action	
Session 16: Publication and Celebration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suggest appropriate revisions 5UK

Unit 2

The Literary Essay: Analyzing Craft and Theme

Bend I: The Thematic Essay

Textbook section	IXL skills
Session 1: Looking for Themes All around Us...	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Match the quotations with their themes STM 2. Transitions with conjunctive adverbs 6VK
Session 2: Reading Closely to Develop Themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the themes of short stories 9UH 2. Identify supporting details in literary texts XXH
Session 3: Fine-Tuning Themes by Studying Author's Craft	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the difference between related words V9F 2. Interpret figures of speech GPY 3. Identify thesis statements TM6
Session 4: Drafting Essays	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trace an argument UNX 2. Choose evidence to support a claim BMP
Session 5: Finding the Courage to Revise Your Thinking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove redundant words or phrases JHX 2. Formatting quotations and dialogue B7V
Session 6: Clarifying the Relationships between Evidence and Ideas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Classify logical fallacies FZ9
Session 7: Counterargument within Literary Essays	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify counterclaims 78W
Session 8: Editing Using All You Know	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use dashes RD8 2. Identify appositives and appositive phrases SVA

Bend II: The Author's Craft Essay

Textbook section	IXL skills
Session 9: Noticing How an Author Tends to Write	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Classify figures of speech WE5

Session 10: The Power of Symbolism

1. Analyze the effects of figures of speech on meaning and tone MMK
2. Use personification RTX

Session 11: Planning the Author's Craft Essay

1. Identify supporting details in informational texts 8HV

Session 12: Framing Essays with Relevance and Context

1. Choose the topic sentence that best captures the main idea 6CH

Session 13: Adopting an Essayist's Tone

1. Create varied sentences based on models C2L
2. Choose the synonym AQ2

Session 14: A Comma Inquiry

1. Commas with nonrestrictive elements 5X8
2. Commas with compound and complex sentences JGH
3. Commas with direct addresses, introductory words, interjections, and interrupters GMT

Bend III: The Comparative Essay**Textbook section****IXL skills****Session 15:** Writing Across Texts

1. Compare information from two texts VAL

Session 16: Writing Comparative Essays on Demand**Session 17:** Publishing on the Internet

1. Which sentence is more formal? R6L
2. Use parallel structure APM

Unit 3

Position Papers: Research and Argument

Bend I: Writing a Position Paper: Games Based on Fictional Violence—Diverting or Harmful?

Textbook section	IXL skills
Session 1: Debating Positions to Develop a Complex Argument	1. Choose evidence to support a claim BMP
Session 2: Flash-Drafting Arguments While Working on Specific Writing Goals	1. Compare information from two texts VAL
Session 3: Angling Evidence to Support Specific Points	1. Classify logical fallacies FZ9 2. Recognize the parts of a Works Cited entry (MLA 8th edition) SCY
Session 4: Using Connotative Language to Paint a Tone	1. Positive and negative connotation XY6 2. Compare passages for tone NSM
Session 5: Writing Powerful Conclusions	
Session 6: Getting Ready to Publish	1. Use the correct frequently confused word XYZ 2. Correct errors with signs FXP
Session 7: Unleashing the Inner Dramatist to Give Speeches More Impact	1. Commas: review 8CY 2. Use semicolons and commas to separate clauses 63P 3. Is it a complete sentence, a fragment, or a run-on? HPN
Session 8: A Celebration of Speeches	

Bend II: Writing a Position Paper on a Complicated Issue: Should Child Soldiers Be Given Amnesty?

Textbook section	IXL skills
Session 9: Grappling with Issues of Intensity and Developing Initial Understanding	1. Identify supporting details in informational texts 8HV
Session 10: Developing Preliminary Positions and Revising Thinking	1. Trace an argument UNX 2. Compare two texts with different genres RXX
Session 11: Debating to Draft More Balanced and Principled Arguments	1. Identify appeals to ethos, pathos, and logos in advertisements QUT 2. Transitions with conjunctive adverbs 6VK
Session 12: Strengthening, Framing, and Pacing Evidence	1. Recall the source of an allusion UVU 2. Analyze the effects of figures of speech on meaning and tone MMK 3. Identify stronger and weaker evidence to support a claim BU5
Session 13: Attending to Alternative Arguments and Points of View	1. Identify counterclaims 78W
Session 14: Using the Organizational Structure of Your Piece to Help Build Your Argument	1. Identify text structures U9K
Session 15: Tailoring Position Papers as Letters	1. Which sentence is more formal? R6L 2. Use in-text citations (MLA 8th edition) ZP8 3. Use semicolons, colons, and commas with lists FNA 4. Correct capitalization errors G8Q
Session 16: A Social Activist Celebration	