

More Meaningful English Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards: English Language Arts Correlation to *Wit & Wisdom* Florida GRADE 8 November 2020

Wit & Wisdom® Florida is a Kindergarten through Grade 8 English language arts (ELA) curriculum created by Great Minds®, an organization that brings together teachers and experts who believe all students deserve access to rich, rigorous content.

Each grade level of *Wit & Wisdom* Florida includes four modules. Each module focuses on an engaging, content-focused topic. The purposeful sequence of topics within and across grade levels builds students' content knowledge in literature, the arts, social sciences and history, and science. A shared knowledge base empowers all students to comprehend complex texts.

At the heart of each module is a selection of literary works, informational texts, and visual art. With *Wit & Wisdom* Florida, every text a student explores is authentic and of the highest quality. Students use these texts at every turn to learn—and eventually master—essential reading, communication, and vocabulary skills.

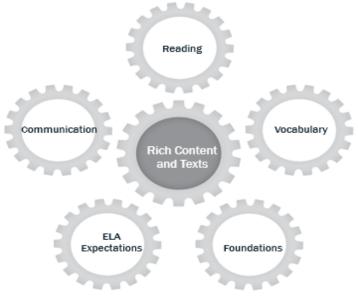
Powerful questions guide students' learning across the 30–38 lessons in each module. Using predictable yet flexible stages for close reading, *Wit & Wisdom* Florida students build transferrable skills to comprehend texts across the content areas. Explicit, text-based communication instruction follows a sequence of stages that gradually leads students to mastery in writing and presenting.

With Wit & Wisdom Florida, Great Minds supports all students in learning by achieving the essential balance of accountability to standards through meaningful, relevant content. Each module lesson integrates reading, communication, and vocabulary instruction and includes an aligned conventions or vocabulary Deep Dive.

The following alignment study provides illustrative examples of how *Wit & Wisdom* Florida addresses Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts. The aligned examples included

are not comprehensive (the full curriculum contains many more examples), but rather show where the knowledge and skills of each benchmark are taught, learned, or demonstrated. Because the instruction of standards in *Wit & Wisdom* Florida is integrated and not isolated, the same lesson may be listed as an exemplar for more than one standard. Sometimes a full lesson illustrates alignment; other times we call out specific sections or a Deep Dive. Some individual examples may address components of the benchmark's knowledge or skills, with the complete set of examples providing full coverage of the benchmark.

With Wit & Wisdom Florida, students in Grades Kindergarten through 8 build the knowledge, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills they need for success in secondary and post-secondary education, career, and civic life.



GRADE 8 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The Wit & Wisdom Florida curriculum provides instruction on, practice with, and assessment of Florida's Grade 8 B.E.S.T. Standards: English Language Arts.

Details of alignment are provided in the table below. Wit & Wisdom Florida students will achieve the proficiencies of the Florida standards while benefiting from the rich texts and knowledge building of Wit & Wisdom Florida.

G = grade level Examples:

M = module G8 M1 L6 = Grade 8 Module 1 Lesson 6

L = lesson G8 M1 L6DD = Grade 8 Module 1 Lesson 6 Deep Dive

DD = Deep Dive

Strand	Standard	Benchmark	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
Communication	Communicating Through Writing	Narrative Writing ELA.8.C.1.2: Write personal or fictional narratives using narrative techniques, varied transitions, and a clearly established point of view.	Primary Example G8 M1 L29–32 > End-of-Module Task p. 307 G8 M1 L3 > Experiment with Descriptive and Sensory Language p. 40 L7 > Focusing Question Task 1 p. 83 L10 > Execute a Found Materials Poem p. 116 L13 > Map a Narrative Arc p. 152 L17 > Compose a Collaborative Story of Learning p. 192 L21 > Draft a Poem p. 234 G8 M2 L16 > Focusing Question Task p. 170

Strand	Standard	Benchmark	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
		Argumentative Writing	Primary Example
		ELA.8.C.1.3: Write to argue a	G8 M3 L33–35 > End-of-Module Task p. 363
		position, supporting at least	
		one claim and rebutting at	G8 M3
		least one counterclaim with	L3 > Examine an Evidence-Based Claim p. 36
		logical reasoning, credible	L4 > Experiment with Evidence-Based Claims p. 50
		evidence from sources,	L6 > Examine Argument Structure p. 74
		elaboration, and using a logical	L7 > Experiment with Argument Structure p. 85
		organizational structure.	L8 > Execute an Evidence-Based Claim p. 99
			L9 > Execute Argument Structure p. 109
			L17 > Develop a Claim about Love p. 193
			L18 > Examine Distinguishing Claims p. 207
			L19 > Experiment with Distinguishing Claims p. 220
		Expository Writing	Primary Example
		ELA.8.C.1.4: Write expository	G8 M2 L34–37 > End-of-Module Task p. 369
		texts to explain and analyze	
		information from multiple	G8 M2
		sources, using relevant	L3 > Experiment with Well-Chosen Evidence p. 35
		supporting details, logical	L5 > Organize Evidence; Focusing Question Task p. 54
		organization, and varied	L13 > Examine Transitions in Explanatory Writing p. 134
		purposeful transitions.	L14 > Experiment Writing with Transitions p. 146
			L15 > Execute an Explanatory Paragraph p. 162
			L32 > Focusing Question Task p. 352
			G8 M4
			L25–27 > End-of-Module Task p. 289

Strand	Standard	Benchmark	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
		Improving Writing	Primary Example
		ELA.8.C.1.5: Improve writing by	G8 M1 L28DD p. 305
		planning, editing, considering	
		feedback from adults and	G8 M1
		peers, and revising for clarity	L11 > Revise Found Materials Poem p. 126
		and cohesiveness.	
			G8 M2
			L34 > Deconstruct the End-of-Module Exemplar Essay p. 373
			L37DD p. 400
			G8 M3
			L10 > Participate in Peer Review p. 120
			L35 > Execute a Peer Review p. 380
			L35DD p. 383
			L36 > Self-Assess Argument Writing p. 388
			G8 M4
			L27 p. 307
			L31 > Participate in a Peer Review p. 344
	Communicating	Oral Presentation	Primary Example
	Orally	ELA.8.C.2.1: Present	G8 M4 L28–32 > End-of-Module Task Presentations p. 315
	_ · · · · · ,	information orally, in a logical	
		sequence, supporting the	G8 M1
		central idea with	L18–22 > Poetic Performances p. 200
		credible evidence.	L33 > Present Portfolios p. 342
			G8 M3
			L17 > Develop a Claim about Love p. 193
			G8 M4
			L5 > Present Findings Succinctly p. 68

Strand	Standard	Benchmark	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
	Following	Conventions	Primary Example
	Conventions	ELA.8.C.3.1: Follow the rules of	G8 M1 L10DD p. 121
		standard English grammar,	
		punctuation, capitalization,	G8 M2
		and spelling appropriate to	L21DD p. 230
		grade level.	L23DD p. 257
			L24DD p. 268
			G8 M3
			L36DD p. 390
			G8 M4
			L25DD p. 295
			L26DD p. 305
			L27DD p. 312

Strand	Standard	Benchmark	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
	Researching	Researching and Using	Primary Example
		Information	G8 M4 L25–30 > End-of-Module Task p. 289
		ELA.8.C.4.1: Conduct research	
		to answer a question, drawing	G8 M2
		on multiple reliable and valid	L1 > Research Who, What, or Where p. 9
		sources, and generating	
		additional questions for	G8 M3
		further research.	L1 > Research Topics of Interest p. 10
			L8 > Research Topics of Interest p. 98
			G8 M4
			L1 > Discuss Research Questions p. 9
			L2 > Pose Research Questions p. 24
			L4 > Conduct Research to Extend Knowledge p. 55
			L15 > Assess Sources in Research p. 190
			L17 > Research the Arab Spring p. 210
			L25 > Identify Remaining Research Questions p. 293
	Creating and	Multimedia	Primary Example
	Collaborating	ELA.8.C.5.1: Integrate diverse	G8 M4 L9 > Create a Multimedia Exhibit p. 115
		digital media to emphasize the	
		relevance of a topic or idea in	G8 M4
		oral or written tasks.	L28 > Discuss Transition from Writing to Presenting p. 319
			L29 p. 323
			L30 > Multimedia Presentation p. 334
		Technology in Communication	Primary Example
		ELA.8.C.5.2: Use a variety of	G8 M1 L22 p. 239
		digital tools to collaborate with	
		others to produce writing.	G8 M4
			L9 p. 111
			L32–33 p. 349

Strand	Standard	Benchmark	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
Reading	Reading Prose	Literary Elements	Primary Example
	and Poetry	ELA.8.R.1.1: Analyze the	G8 M2 L7 > Explore Characters and Responses p. 74
		interaction between character	
		development, setting, and plot	G8 M1
		in a literary text.	L5 > Analyze Character Relationships p. 60
			L6 > Analyze Development of Character and Theme p. 71
			G8 M2
			L9 > Learn p. 94
			L16 > Learn > Create > Focusing Question Task p. 170
			L25 > Learn p. 274
			L35 > Learn p. 384
			G8 M3
			L6 > Learn p. 69
			L10 > Analyze Setting p. 119
		Theme	Primary Example
		ELA.8.R.1.2: Analyze two or more themes and their	G8 M2 L9 > Experiment Using Broad Categories p. 96
		development throughout a	G8 M1
		literary text.	L2 > Examine Character and Theme p. 22
		,	L6 > Analyze Development of Character and Theme p. 71
			G8 M2
			L17 > Complete New-Read Assessment p. 180
			L24 > Engage in a Socratic Seminar p. 264
			G8 M3
			L11 > Write about Theme p. 128

Strand	Standard	Benchmark	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
		Perspective and Point of View	Primary Example
		ELA.8.R.1.3: Analyze how an	G8 M3 L5 p. 57
		author develops	
		and individualizes the	G8 M2
		perspectives of	L16 > Write about Perspectives p. 170
		different characters.	
			G8 M3
			L9 p. 103
			L21 p. 235
		Poetry	Primary Example
		ELA.8.R.1.4: Analyze structure,	G8 M1 L3 p. 31
		sound, imagery, and figurative	
		language in poetry.	G8 M1
			L4 p. 47
			L6DD p. 75
			L20 > Participate in a Socratic Seminar p. 224
			G8 M2
			L19 > Analyze Modes of Address in Poetry
			p. 205
			G8 M3
			L29 > Explore Imagery p. 323

Strand	Standard	Benchmark	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
	Reading	Structure	Primary Example
	Informational Text	ELA.8.R.2.1: Analyze how	G8 M4 L1 > Examine Epigraphs; Read to Understand Claudette Colvin p. 5
		individual text sections and/or	
		features convey a purpose	G8 M1
		and/or meaning in texts.	L12 > Understand What's Happening in "This Is Your Life" p. 138
			G8 M4
			L5 > Examine Claudette's First Stand p. 64
			L10 > Examine the Development of the Civil Rights Movement p. 126
		Central Idea	Primary Example
		ELA.8.R.2.2: Analyze two or	G8 M4 L22 > Analyze Ideas about Activism p. 267
		more central ideas and their	
		development throughout	G8 M1
		a text.	L23 p. 247
			L26 > Discern Central Ideas p. 286
			G8 M4
			L1 > Read to Understand Claudette Colvin p. 7
			L5 > Write to Express a Central Idea p. 67
			L10 > Examine the Development of the Civil Rights Movement p. 126
			L17 > Summarize Key Ideas p. 211
			L21 > Discuss Strategies for Social Change p. 258

Strand	Standard	Benchmark	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
		Purpose and Perspective	Primary Example
		ELA.8.R.2.3: Explain how an	G8 M4 L18 > Analyze an Analogy p. 221
		author establishes and	
		achieves purpose(s) through	G8 M3
		rhetorical appeals and/or	L12 > Examine Formal Style p. 143
		figurative language.	L14 > Complete New-Read Assessment 2 p. 164
			G8 M4
			L15DD p. 192
			L20 > Analyze an Analogy p. 246
		Argument	Primary Example
		ELA.8.R.2.4: Track the	G8 M3 L16 > Organize Evidence; Complete Focusing Question Task 2
		development of an argument,	p. 184
		analyzing the types of	
		reasoning used and their	G8 M3
		effectiveness, identifying ways	L13 p. 149
		in which the argument could	L14 > Evaluate an Argument about Love p. 164
		be improved.	L15 > Outline an Argument about Love p. 174
			G8 M4
			1 55
			L20 > Read to Understand Distinctions; Analyze an Analogy p. 244
			L23 > Create: Focusing Question Task 3 p. 277

Strand	Standard	Benchmark	Aligned Components of <i>Wit & Wisdom</i> Florida
	Reading Across	Interpreting Figurative	Primary Example
	Genres	Language	G8 M2 L10 > Analyze Descriptions of the Front and the Soldiers p. 104
		ELA.8.R.3.1: Analyze how	
		figurative language contributes	G8 M1
		to meaning and explain	L14 > Write to Distill Meaning p. 164
		examples of symbolism	60.140
		in text(s).	G8 M3
			L4 > Analyze Figurative Language p. 47
			L4DD p. 54
			L8 > Interpret Figurative Language p. 94
			L20 > Examine Figurative Language and Word Relationships p. 228
			G8 M4
			L22 > Analyze the Meaning of a Sculpture p. 268
		Paraphrasing and Summarizing	Primary Example
		ELA.8.R.3.2: Paraphrase	G8 M4 L15 > Experiment with Paraphrasing and Quoting Evidence p. 189
		content from	
		grade-level texts.	G8 M4
			L16 p. 195
			L18 > Excel at Paraphrasing and Quoting p. 222
			L25–27 > End-of-Module Task p. 289

Strand	Standard	Benchmark	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
		Comparative Reading	
		ELA.8.R.3.3: Compare and	Primary Example
		contrast the use or discussion	G8 M2 L15 > Analyze a Character's Reactions to the Front p. 159
		of archetypes in texts.	
			G8 M1
			The Bell family characters—Dad as the fallen hero, Mom as the caregiver,
			JB as the lover
			L2 > Summarize Characters p. 25
			L5 > Analyze Character Relationships p. 60
			G8 M2
			Paul's development from an archetypal innocent to sage in All Quiet on
			the Western Front
			L6 p. 59
			L7 p. 71
			L25 p. 271
			G8 M3
			Puck/Robin Goodfellow as the archetypal character of the trickster/jester
			and the forest setting
			L6 > Analyze a Character's Description and Role p. 70
			L10 > Analyze Setting p. 119

Strand	Standard	Benchmark	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
		Understanding Rhetoric	Primary Example
		ELA.8.R.3.4: Explain how an	G8 M3 L14 > Evaluate an Argument about Love p. 164
		author uses rhetorical devices	
		to support or advance	G8 M3
		an appeal.	L15 > Outline an Argument about Love p. 174
			G8 M4
			L18 > Analyze an Analogy p. 221
			L20 > Analyze an Analogy p. L246
			L22 > Analyze Ideas about Activism p. 267
Vocabulary	Finding Meaning	Academic Vocabulary	Primary Example
		ELA.8.V.1.1: Integrate	G8 M2 L30 > Integrate an Understanding of Psychological Effects p. 331
		academic vocabulary	
		appropriate to grade level in	G8 M1
		speaking and writing.	L12DD p. 143
			L25 > Incorporate Evidence in Writing p. 274
			G8 M2
			L15 > Execute an Explanatory Paragraph p. 162
			L30DD p. 335
			G8 M3
			L2DD p. 26
			L13 > Experiment with Formal Style p. 156
			G8 M4
			L10DD p. 131
			L24 > Write to Learn for a Socratic Seminar p. 284

Strand	Standard	Benchmark	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
		Morphology	Primary Example
		ELA.8.V.1.2: Apply knowledge	G8 M4 L17DD p. 215
		of Greek and Latin roots and	30 m · 11/35 p · 110
		affixes to determine meanings	G8 M1
		of words and phrases in	L3DD p. 45
		grade-level content.	L12DD p. 143
			G8 M2
			L20DD p. 219
			L22DD p. 245
			G8 M3
			L10DD p. 122
			L21DD p. 243
			·
			G8 M4
			L6DD p. 83
		Context and Connotation	Primary Example
		ELA.8.V.1.3: Apply knowledge	G8 M3 L9DD p. 112
		of context clues, figurative	
		language, word relationships,	G8 M1
		reference materials, and/or	L11DD p. 133
		background knowledge to	L24DD p. 267
		determine the connotative and	G8 M2
		denotative meaning of words	
		and phrases, appropriate to grade level.	L4 > Explore Vocabulary and Central Ideas p. 45 L6DD p. 69
		grade level.	1000 p. 03
			G8 M3
			L15DD p. 178
			L18DD p. 210
			G8 M4
			L2DD p. 27
			L15DD p. 192

Strand	Standard	Benchmark	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
		Context and Connotation	Primary Example
		ELA.8.V.1.3: Apply knowledge	G8 M3 L9DD p. 112
		of context clues, figurative	
		language, word relationships,	G8 M1
		reference materials, and/or	L11DD p. 133
		background knowledge to	L24DD p. 267
		determine the connotative and	
		denotative meaning of words	G8 M2
		and phrases, appropriate to	L4 > Explore Vocabulary and Central Ideas p. 45
		grade level.	L6DD p. 69
			G8 M3
			L15DD p. 178
			L18DD p. 210
			G8 M4
			L2DD p. 27
			L15DD p. 192

Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts ELA Expectations	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
ELA.K12.EE.1.1: Cite evidence to explain and justify reasoning.	Collecting and citing evidence to support ideas in speaking and writing is a core practice in Wit & Wisdom Florida.
	Students collect evidence during and after reading as a class, in small groups, in pairs, or independently. Students use graphic organizers, their journals, or other note-taking systems to collect and record evidence prior to expressing their evidence-supported understandings through writing or speaking.
	Primary Example
	G8 M2 L24 p. 261
	G8 M1
	L25 > Incorporate Evidence in Writing p. 274
	L26 > Incorporate Evidence p. 284
	G8 M2
	L25 > Organize Evidence for Focusing Question Task p. 276
	G8 M3
	L16 > Organize Evidence p. 184
	L29 > Launch p. 322
	G8 M4
	L8 > Collect Evidence p. 102
	L15 > Experiment with Paraphrasing and Quoting Evidence p. 189

Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts ELA Expectations	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
ELA.K12.EE.2.1: Read and comprehend grade-level complex texts proficiently.	Wit & Wisdom Florida is a text-centered curriculum. By design, students work with the same knowledge-building text sets, allowing all of them to grow shared knowledge and academic vocabulary across lessons and modules. Students are engaged in using grade-appropriate comprehension skills by first listening to rich grade-level texts read aloud in the early grades and reading with increasing independence as their decoding skills develop. They comprehend a range of texts because they have a strong knowledge base and appropriate support across the modules and years.
	See the Module Overview > Texts list of the core and supplementary texts included in the module, G8 M1–4.
	See Appendix A: Text Complexity for a description of the quantitative and qualitative complexity of the module's core texts.
	Primary Example
	G8 M4 > Appendix A

Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts ELA Expectations	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
ELA.K12.EE.3.1: Make inferences to support comprehension.	The Wit & Wisdom Florida Content Stages are a framework for close reading and questioning that is specifically designed to engage students in deep comprehension of complex texts across grade levels. The Content Stages guide students' daily work in Wit & Wisdom Florida—from first encountering and understanding the literal meaning of text to analyzing, connecting, and making inferences from text. The Wit & Wisdom Florida Content Stages optimize the learning opportunities each text presents while building sound habits for wide reading across genres.
	The first two stages—Wonder and Organize—focus on questioning and organizing literal comprehension. The next two stages—Reveal and Distill—deepen students' comprehension through analysis of craft, structure, and meaning, of the parts and the whole. Finally, in the Know Stage, students consider the text in the context of their own knowledge and learning.
	See the Module Overview > Module Map to identify lessons focused on the Reveal Stage and the Distill Stage.
	Primary Example G8 M3 L29 > Explore Imagery p. 323
	G8 M1 L5 > Analyze Character Relationships p. 60
	G8 M2 L27 > Examine the Psychological Effects of War p. 299
	G8 M3 L1 > Read to Understand Character p. 8
	G8 M4 L18 > Explore an Author's Purpose p. 220

Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts ELA Expectations	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
ELA.K12.EE.4.1: Use appropriate collaborative	In all modules and grades of <i>Wit & Wisdom</i> Florida, students participate in formal structured, text-
techniques and active listening skills when engaging in	based, academic discussions (Socratic Seminars) and informal, collaborative
discussions in a variety of situations.	content- and text-based conversations and tasks (through routines like Think-Pair-Share).
	Primary Example
	G8 M4 L9 > Participate in a Socratic Seminar p. 115
	G8 M1
	L15 > Engage in Socratic Seminar p. 172
	L16 > Compose Collaborative Found Poem p. 182
	G8 M2
	L11 > Participate in a Collaborative Analysis p. 113
	L15 > Participate in a Collaborative Discussion p. 161
	G8 M3
	L32 > Engage in a Socratic Seminar p. 357
	G8 M4
	L24 > Participate in a Socratic Seminar p. 285

Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts ELA Expectations	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
ELA.K12.EE.5.1: Use the accepted rules governing a	The Wit & Wisdom Florida Craft Stages and writing models provide students with clear structures
specific format to create quality work.	for their written, visual, and spoken work.
	The Craft Stages are a sequenced process for building skills in writing, speaking, and presenting.
	The first Wit & Wisdom Florida Craft Stage is Examine—in which students examine an exemplar
	of writing, visual presentation, or speaking to identify the elements and structures of quality communication.
	See the Module Overview > Module Map to identify lessons focused on the Examine Stage.
	The Wit & Wisdom Florida writing models give students visuals for organizing their narrative, opinion/argument, and expository writing.
	Primary Example
	G8 M1 L29 p. 307
	G8 M3
	L9 > Execute Argument Structure p. 109
	G8 M4
	L8 > Collect Evidence; Focusing Question Task p. 102
	L10 > Examine a Research Project p. 128

Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts ELA Expectations	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
ELA.K12.EE.6.1: Use appropriate voice and tone when speaking or writing.	In Wit & Wisdom Florida, students examine and are explicitly taught distinctions between formal and informal language. Engagement with the curriculum's module texts and content builds students' academic vocabulary. Integration of sentence frames, process writing, speaking and listening guidelines, and explicit vocabulary instruction supports students' use of academic language in communicating their ideas about module texts and topics in formal presentations, Socratic Seminars, and writing.
	Primary Example G8 M4 L8 p. 99
	G8 M1
	L17 > Perform a Fluent Reading p. 193
	L19 > Examine a New Speaking Goal p. 213
	G8 M2
	L19 > Launch p. 199
	G8 M3
	L12 > Examine Formal Style p. 143
	L13 > Experiment with Formal Style p. 156
	G8 M4
	L25DD p. 295

English Language Development	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom Florida
ELD.K12.ELL.LA.1: English language learners communicate information, ideas, and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of	In writing, Wit & Wisdom Florida students engage in writing-to-learn and learning-to-write activities daily, building their skills with using writing to communicate their academic ideas and understandings.
Language Arts.	In oral communication, <i>Wit & Wisdom</i> Florida lessons intentionally shift the balance of talking from teachers to students, engaging students in daily meaningful opportunities to speak and listen. All <i>Wit & Wisdom</i> Florida students speak and listen to communicate academic information, ideas, and concepts daily.
	G8 M1-4
ELD.K12.ELL.SI.1: English language learners communicate for social and instructional purposes within the school setting.	Wit & Wisdom Florida students hone their skills and awareness of the many purposes for writing, speaking, and listening. They learn to tailor their writing and speaking to specific purposes and audiences.
	Students engage in daily informal academic conversations and write-to-learn activities and in frequent formal presentations, discussions, and extended writing tasks.
	G8 M1-4