

Grade 8 English Annual Learning Plan

Every unit, and every lesson inside it, for the whole school year. Nothing here is a summary: this is the list the material is built from.

10

UNITS

90

LESSONS

50

DOCUMENTS

1224

PRINTED PAGES

What this course is

For a student heading into high school English who needs to handle a text that does not mean what it says.

This is the last year before high school marks start to count. The pack spends it on the two things that are actually tested later: a paragraph under control, and an argument that has already answered the objection.

How it is arranged

Ten units, in the order they are meant to be taught. Every unit contains the same set of documents: Reading File, Study Book, Workbook, a skills document and a Unit Test. A unit is roughly a month of work at two classes a week, so the ten units are a school year.

It is written to be province-neutral. It follows what a Canadian student is expected to know in Grade 8 English, without being tied to the wording of one province.

What is not in it

There are no answers printed anywhere in this course. A child who can see the answer stops working out the question, and the working is the point. Marking guides exist and they stay with the tutor.

The year, unit by unit

Ten units, 90 lessons. The lesson names below are the real headings inside the Study Books.

WHEN	UNIT	THE LESSONS INSIDE IT
Month 1	Inference, Tone, Irony and Satire	What the Words Say, Tone, Irony, Satire, Allusion, The Sincere One, A Document That Is Selling, The Source You Reject, Two Texts in Dialogue
Month 2	The Controlled Paragraph	What a Paragraph Is For, The First Sentence, What a Transition Claims, Where the Weight Sits, Narrative Against Argument, Cohesion, Hard on Purpose, Order, Rebuilding
Month 3	Words, Registers and Loaded Language	Denotation and Connotation, The Three Defences, Register, Loaded Language, Roots, A Word That Changed, Cultural Elements, Two Texts in Dialogue, Three Registers
Month 4	Concession and Refutation	A Claim, Not a Topic, The Objection, in Its Own Best Words, Concession, Refutation, Five Named Faults, Where the Evidence Came From, The Source You Reject, Where the Objection Sits, The Whole Essay on One Page
Month 5	Voice, Reliability and Point of View	Who Is Telling This, Accurate and Wrong, Dramatic Irony, The Signals, The Second Text, A Document About a Person, The Chain, Two Texts in Dialogue, One Event, Two Voices
Month 6	Finding and Judging Your Own Sources	Primary, Secondary, Interested, How Do They Know?, The Four Things, Rejecting a Source, Two Readings, Attribution Inside, The Source List, A Source Against Itself, Your Own Set
Month 7	Poetry - Form as Argument	What a Form Claims, The Line Break, Sound as Meaning, The Turn, Free Verse, Across Time and Place, A Told Story, The Poems and the Note, One Poem, Two Forms
Month 8	Novel Study and a Second Text	The Opening, Character, Structure, Theme, The Question It Refuses, Reading the Ledger, The Second Text, The Comparative Paragraph, The Comparative Essay
Month 9	Media, Attention and How It Reached You	The Four Questions, How It Reached You, What Changed at Each Step, Framing, The Headline, Attention, The Publicist, Read Fairly, Two Texts in Dialogue, Writing With a Job to Do
Month 10	Review of the Whole Course	What Is It Doing?, Shape Is the Argument, The Temperature of a Word, Concede It Properly, Saw, or Concluded?, How Do They Know?, What the Form Did, A Theme Is Disputable, How Did It Reach Me?

Tests, and what you can see

Assessment plan

WHAT	WHEN	COVERS
Unit test	End of each unit	The nine lessons of that unit, nothing from outside it.
Term 1	After Unit 3	Units 1 to 3 together.
Term 2	After Unit 6	Units 4 to 6, with Units 1 to 3 assumed.
Term 3	After Unit 9	Units 7 to 9, with everything before it assumed.
Final	End of Unit 10	The whole year, in one assessment.

How to use the year

Take one unit at a time and keep the order. Read the Study Book lesson first, because it teaches: one idea, a picture, a worked example, and the words to say. Then your child does the Workbook page that follows it. Keep the unit test for the end of the unit rather than partway through, so it measures the unit and not the lesson.

Print one unit at a time. Everything is built for ordinary letter paper, 8.5 by 11 inches.

What comes with the pack

- ✓ 50 printable documents, 1224 pages
- ✓ Ten unit tests and one annual assessment
- ✓ This plan, so you always know where you are
- ✓ Unit 1 free, before you decide anything

If the explaining is the hard part

VA Classes teaches Canadian students one to one, online, in Math, Science, English and Coding. The first class is free, and the tutor works from this same material.

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