



# English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 7 (ELAR) 7A Syllabus

## Course Name

ELAR 7A

English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 7 – Semester A

## Course Information

ELAR 7A is the first semester of this two-semester course.

The main theme of ELAR 7A is exploring the idea of choice. What choices do you make for yourself? How are your choices influenced by others? The first half of the semester focuses on personal choices, and the second half looks the effects of advertising and arguments on our choices.

ELAR 7A uses journaling activities to help you improve your reading skills so you can get more out of your encounters with various texts. These activities also prepare you for bigger assignments where you turn in an analysis chart, an essay plan, or a complete essay.

There are two units (Unit 1 and Unit 2) with a total of four main writing assignments, two in each unit. Each unit is broken into two parts (Units 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B), with the first part working toward the first main writing assignment, and the second part working toward the second main writing assignment.

## Course Delivery Method

Online

## Contacting Your Instructor

You may contact your instructor through the Blackboard messaging system. Technical support is available 24/7 at [TTU K-12](#).

## Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. select texts of interest to reflect and synthesize informally through discussion and writing;
2. ask questions, make predictions, observe genre characteristics and text structures;
3. use textual evidence, use new vocabulary words, reflect on the ideas of others, and make connections among texts, ideas, and experiences;
4. analyze author's craft through a variety of genres and mimic features and styles in their own formal and informal writing;
5. answer text-dependent questions at varying levels; and
6. demonstrate writing skills and grammar knowledge through a personal narrative, an illustrated myth, informational writing, and argumentative writing.

ELAR 7 addresses the required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These can be found at the [Texas Education Agency](#) website.

## Textbook and Materials

### ***Textbook(s)***

The required **digital** textbooks for this course are:

- *SpringBoard English Language Arts Grade 7*. (2021). The College Board. ISBN 978-1-4573-1293-9
- *SpringBoard Language Workshop Grade 7*. (2021). The College Board. ISBN 978-1-4573-1321-9
- *SpringBoard Writing Workshop Grade 7*. (2021). The College Board. ISBN 978-1-4573-1349-3

*You'll be using the main English Language Arts textbook for most of the readings, but you'll also need to make sure you have access to the Language Workshop and Writing Workshop texts, too.*

These digital textbooks can only be purchased through the TTU K-12 partner bookstore, MBS (see the [TTU K-12 website](#) for a link to MBS). Once you make your purchase, you will receive your credentials to the online textbooks and resources via email, and it may take 1-2 business days.

### ***Materials***

No additional materials are required.

## Technical Requirements

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Blackboard)
- Email
- Word processing software such as Microsoft Word
- Adobe Reader (download from [Adobe.com](http://Adobe.com))
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (free options available)
- Digital camera or camera phone

## Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following:

- using a word processor
- Internet search engines and browsers
- creating PDFs (see **Requirements for Creating PDFs** in the Syllabus section of the course)

## Course Organization

This course is organized into two units (broken into four parts) with a midterm examination and a final examination. Each unit contains the following:

- Individual Lessons
- Learning Objectives and Curriculum Standards
- Reading, Watching, and Learning Activities for the Unit
- Assignments
- A Discussion Board

Each lesson includes several activities that present content knowledge. Each lesson also includes multiple graded assignments to ensure that you learn the content that has been presented in the activities. Some of the assignments are automatically-graded quizzes, and some are written assignments or activities that your instructor will grade. Be sure you read all instructions carefully and ask your instructor for help if something is not clear.

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## Course Outline

Please note that some assignments will be hidden from you when you start the course. As you move through the lessons and complete assignments, more will unlock for you.

Lesson	Topic	Approximate Time for Completion
Unit 1A	The Choices We Make, Part 1	Four weeks
Unit 1B	The Choices We Make, Part 2	Four weeks
Midterm Exam		
Unit 2A	What Influences My Choices? Part 1	Four weeks
Unit 2B	What Influences My Choices? Part 2	Four weeks
Final Exam		

## Assignment Schedule

Each of the following must be completed to complete the course. Items with an asterisk (\*) indicate that these are summative assessments for the course.

Unit	Weeks	Assignments
1A	1-4	Checkpoint 1 – Introduce Yourself (Non-graded) Journal 1.0: Visual Prompt Quiz 01: Exploring the Concept of Choice (Paraphrasing) Journal 1.0: Paraphrase a Quote Journal 1.1 Practice Lesson 1.2: Capitalization (Non-graded) Journal 1.2: My Name Practice Lesson 1.3: Create an Accurate Summary (Non-graded) Journal 1.3 Quiz 02: Choices and Consequences: Paired Poetry (Frost and Giovanni) Practice Lesson 1.4: Fragments (Non-graded) Quiz 03: Exploring the Personal Narrative ("The Scholarship Jacket") Journal 1.5 Quiz 04: Language Checkpoint: Using Possessive Nouns Practice Lesson 1.6: Using Possessive Nouns (Non-graded) Journal 1.6: Unfortunate Event Assignment 1.7 - Comparing Personal Narratives Journal 1.8: Analyze the Prompt and Brainstorming Assignment 1.8 - Plan a Personal Narrative

Unit	Weeks	Assignments
		Quiz 05: Choosing a Topic and Drafting a Personal Narrative Assignment 1.8 - Draft a Personal Narrative Quiz 06: Once Upon a Time: Revising the Beginning Quiz 07: Can You Sense It? Revising the Middle Quiz 08: Tie It Together: Revising the Ending Journal 1.9: Revisions * Assignment 1.10 - Final Personal Narrative Journal 1.11 Quiz 09: Analyzing Language (Bad Boy) Journal 1.12
<b>1B</b>	5-8	Quiz 10: Unpacking Embedded Assessment 2 Quiz 11: Expanding Narrative Writing: Myths and Folklore Quiz 12: Poor Choices ("Phaethon") Journal 1.13 Quiz 13: A Matter of Pride ("Arachne") Journal 1.14 Journal 1.15 Assignment 1.15 - Comparing Myths Journal 1.16 Quiz 14: Animals as Symbols ("The Burro and the Fox") Journal 1.17 Discussion 1.17 - The Value of Myths or Fables Journal 1.18 Quiz 15: Creation Stories from Around the Globe Assignment 1.19 - Submit Brainstorming and Planning * Assignment 1.19 - Submit Final Illustrated Myth Journal 1.19 Checkpoint 2 (Non-graded)
		<b>* Midterm Exam</b>
<b>2A</b>	9-12	Journal 2.0: Visual Prompt Quiz 16: What Is the Issue? Journal 2.20 Journal 2.21 Quiz 17: Analyzing Informational Text Journal 2.22 Assignment 2.23 - Analyzing Advertisements and Thesis Statements Quiz 18: How Do They Do It? Analyzing Ads Journal 2.23 Practice Lesson 2.24: There, Their, and They're (Non-graded)

Unit	Weeks	Assignments
		Journal 2.24 Quiz 19: Advertising for All Journal 2.25 Quiz 20: Evaluating Sources: How Credible Are They? Quiz 21: Gathering Evidence from a Film Journal 2.26 Quiz 22: Gathering Evidence from a News Article Assignment 2.26 - Planning an Informational Essay Quiz 23: Gathering Evidence: Bringing It All Together Assignment 2.26 - Draft an Informational Essay * Assignment 2.27 - Final Informational Essay
<b>2B</b>	13-16	Quiz 24: Unpacking Embedded Assessment 2 Quiz 25: Preparing for Argumentative Writing Quiz 26: Which Claims to Believe Journal 2.28 Journal 2.29 Journal 2.30 Quiz 27: Language Checkpoint: Writing Parallel Lists Quiz 28: Exploring and Evaluating Reasons and Evidence Journal 2.31 Assignment 2.31 - Analyze an Argumentative Essay Assignment 2.32 - Analyze and Evaluate an Argumentative Essay Discussion 2.32 - Opposing Viewpoints Assignment 2.33 - Plan Your Essay and Introduction Quiz 29: Just the Right Rhetoric: Logical Appeals Journal 2.34 Journal 2.35 Quiz 30: Differing Opinions: Acknowledging Opposing Claims Journal 2.36 Quiz 31: To Introduce and Conclude Assignment 2.36 - Draft Your Argumentative Essay Quiz 32: Language Checkpoint: Placing Modifiers * Assignment 2.37 - Final Argumentative Essay Assignment 2.37 - Record Yourself Reading Your Essay Checkpoint 3 (Non-graded)
		* <b>Final Exam</b>

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## Course Credit

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

- 50% coursework average;
- 50% summative assessment average (for Units 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B), including the midterm and final exams;
- A passing course grade is 70 or higher.

Students must attempt all assignments in the course. The final exam will not be available until all assignments have been accepted and graded by the teacher.

Students who score below 70% on the final exam will be eligible for one re-exam opportunity.

## Coursework

The graded assignments within each lesson are formative in nature. This means that they are designed to assist you in applying and demonstrating the lesson concepts, as well as identifying areas in which you need additional review. You may use all the lesson's learning activities to assist you as you complete the graded assignments.

## Summative Assessments

Summative assessments are those that allow you to demonstrate mastery of the course objectives. For summative assessments, you will NOT be allowed to use the learning materials. These are opportunities for you to show what you have learned by that point in the course.

Summative assessments may be proctored using the online proctoring system Proctorio. Information about Proctorio is provided in **Remote Proctoring** in the Syllabus section of your course. The summative assessments for this course are as follows:

- **Summative Assessments (20% of Course Grade)**
  - Assignment 1.10 - Final Personal Narrative
  - Assignment 1.19 - Submit Final Illustrated Myth
  - Midterm Exam
  - Assignment 2.27 - Final Informational Essay
  - Assignment 2.37 - Final Argumentative Essay
- **Summative Final Exam (30% of Course Grade)**

## Course Completion

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire six months after the enrollment date.

## Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

“Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.

## Student Expectations

You will be expected to log into the Blackboard course regularly to be aware of possible announcements/reminders and to pace your progress in the course.

Students are expected to maintain an online environment conducive to learning, which includes “netiquette” (Internet etiquette). Please review the basic rules for [Online Discussion Netiquette](#). Ensure that your email messages, discussion board postings, and other electronic communications are thoughtful and respectful. Diverse opinions are welcome in this course, and you are expected to demonstrate an open mind and courtesy when responding to the thoughts and ideas of others.

The following are prohibited:

- making offensive remarks in email or the discussion board;
- using inappropriate language or discussing inappropriate topics online;
- spamming;
- hacking;
- using TTU or Blackboard email or discussion boards for commercial purposes;
- using all caps (considered shouting in online communications); and
- cyber-bullying or online harassment of any type.

Inappropriate behavior shall result in consequences ranging from a request to correct the problem, to removal from the course or even the university, depending on the severity of the behavior. Disciplinary actions will be taken according to the TTU K-12 Student Handbook.

## Communication

- You can expect a reply from your instructor within 2 business days.
- Use the Blackboard Course Messages tool for sending messages to your instructor.



## Submitting Assignments

You will submit all assignments through the Blackboard Assignment Tool, rather than by mail or email.

## Technical Difficulties

### ***Getting Help***

For student assistance with Blackboard, visit [TTU K-12 Support](#).

### ***Computer Problems***

A working computer is necessary for online coursework. Computer problems will not be accepted as a valid reason for failure to complete course activities within the allotted time frame. Identify a second computer, before the course begins, that you can use if you experience computer problems.

### ***Server Problems***

When the Blackboard server needs to be taken down for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing you of the time and date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems, your course instructor will notify you.

### ***Lost or Corrupted Files***

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of technology failure (e.g., Blackboard server crash or virus infection, students' own computer problems, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any disputes, the instructor may request or require you to resubmit the files. In some instances, the instructor may need to open another attempt within Blackboard, so communication with your instructor is critical in these circumstances.