



**K-12**  
TEXAS TECH

## **English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 8A - v8.0 – Syllabus**

### **Course Name**

ELAR 8A

English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 8A v8.0 – Semester A

### **Course Information**

ELAR 8A is the first semester of this two-semester course.

Through reading, writing, and rhetoric, students in the MJ Language Arts 3 course examine how authors fine-tune and utilize their craft to create texts with purpose. Students continue to develop the reading, writing, language, and speaking/listening skills necessary for success in high school, college, career, and beyond. Students evaluate and analyze voice, purpose, diction, syntax, and rhetoric in historical speeches, informational texts, and classic and contemporary literature through guided readings, interactive practice, and formal assessments. They also refine their narrative, informational, and argumentative writing skills through the repeated practice of planning, drafting, revising, and editing their written work.

### **Course Delivery Method**

Online

### **Contacting Your Instructor**

You may contact your instructor using your Canvas Inbox. Technical support is available 24/7 at [TTU K-12](#).

### **Course Topics**

After completing this course, the students should have increased knowledge of

- Explaining author's purpose through diction and syntax
- Examining the ways literary elements interact
- Analyzing plot structure

- Tracking the development of two or more themes in literature
- Determining point of view and perspective
- Identifying symbolism in literary texts
- Uncovering word meanings through context clues
- Determining the central idea of a text
- Writing effective summaries
- Utilizing parallel structure in writing
- Examining informational text structures and features
- Locating credible sources based on bias, origin, and purpose
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Citing sources correctly
- Formatting the Works Cited page
- Using signal phrases and transitions in academic writing
- Writing effective informational introductions, body paragraphs, and conclusions
- Formulating thesis statements for academic writing
- Using precise language and domain-specific vocabulary
- Integrating interesting grammar to enhance voice
- Editing and revising with purpose
- Connecting the use of figurative language devices to a text's meaning
- Identifying and correcting logical fallacies
- Using semicolons effectively
- Understanding active and passive voice
- Determining word meaning through affixes and root words

## **Textbook and Materials**

No textbooks required. All content is within Canvas.

### ***Materials***

- Disk space on your computer as well as external device to back up your files (flash drive, external hard drive, etc.)
- Word processing program (Microsoft Word or similar)

## **Technical Requirements**

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Canvas)
- browser (we recommend Chrome)
- supported browser plugins and settings

The following plugins and settings may be required to use our courses.

- JavaScript enabled
- Cookies enabled

- Java installed
- Email
- Printing capabilities
- Adobe Reader (download from [Adobe](#))
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (free options available)

## Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following:

- accessing online learning materials via Canvas
- Internet search engines and browsers (we recommend Chrome)
- uploading assignments into Canvas (there will be instructions for uploading assignments)

## Course Pacing

This course is designed to be completed in 18 weeks.

- Print this guide and use a calendar to fill in your goal dates for completing each Module.
- Note that you must have a grade of 70 or above on a Discussion-Based Assessment (DBA) in order to continue moving forward in the course. DBAs occur every other lesson.
- To achieve success, students are expected to submit work in each course weekly.
- Students can learn at their own pace; however, "any pace" still means that students must make progress in the course every week.
- Post the pace guide in a place where you and your Parent or Guardian will see it every day (on the refrigerator or next to the computer). Give yourself a check every time you complete a task, and celebrate your efforts!

| <b>Weeks</b> | <b>Lessons</b>                                                    | <b>Due Date<br/>(you write this in)</b> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>     | 01.00 A Strong Foundation Checklist<br>01.01 Literary Foundations |                                         |
| <b>2</b>     | 01.02 Perspectives and Themes<br>01.03 Symbolism in Literature    |                                         |

| <b>Weeks</b> | <b>Lessons</b>                                                                                                               | <b>Due Date<br/>(you write this in)</b> |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>3</b>     | 01.04 Being a Word Detective<br>01.05 Find the Central Idea                                                                  |                                         |
| <b>4</b>     | 01.06 Idea Development<br>01.07 Phrases and Clauses                                                                          |                                         |
| <b>5</b>     | 01.08 A Strong Foundation Discussion-Based Assessment<br>*01.09 A Strong Foundation Exam                                     |                                         |
| <b>6</b>     | 02.00 Get the Facts Checklist<br>02.01 Getting Research Ready                                                                |                                         |
| <b>7</b>     | 02.02 A Close Look at Organization<br>02.03 Cite Your Sources<br>02.03 Primary and Secondary Sources – Discussion Board Post |                                         |
| <b>8</b>     | 02.05 Focus on the Introduction<br>02.06 Connect and Support Your Ideas                                                      |                                         |
| <b>9</b>     | 02.07 Syntax and Voice<br>02.09 Revise and Reflect                                                                           |                                         |
| <b>10</b>    | 02.10 Advanced Learning from Legends                                                                                         |                                         |
| <b>11</b>    | *02.08 Putting Your Essay Together Assessment                                                                                |                                         |
| <b>12</b>    | 03.00 Words Have Power Checklist<br>03.01 Figuratively Speaking                                                              |                                         |
| <b>13</b>    | 03.02 Figuring Out Figurative Language<br>03.03 Mastering Semicolons                                                         |                                         |
| <b>14</b>    | 03.04 The Name Game<br>03.05 Fallacies: Why So Informal?                                                                     |                                         |
| <b>15</b>    | 03.06 Be a Fallacy Fixer<br>03.07 Active and Passive Voice<br>03.08 Words Have Power Discussion-Based Assessment             |                                         |
| <b>16</b>    | *Final Exam – ELAR 8A                                                                                                        |                                         |
| <b>17</b>    | Floating Vacation Week                                                                                                       |                                         |

| <b>Weeks</b> | <b>Lessons</b>         | <b>Due Date<br/>(you write this in)</b> |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>18</b>    | Floating Vacation Week |                                         |

## Course Credit

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

- formative assessments (50%)
- summative assessments (20%)
- summative final exam (30%)

Assignments are labeled as “summative” or “formative” under Grades in Canvas.

## Course Completion and Extensions

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire 180 days 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.

## Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

This policy covers any generative AI tool, such as ChatGTP, Elicit, Photo Math, etc. This includes text and artwork/graphics/video/audio, etc.

All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not use artificial intelligence tools to complete your assignments in this course.

If an instructor suspects that an assignment is not the work of the student, it will receive a score of zero. The instructor will message the student or provide feedback on the assignment indicating the need to schedule a one-on-one video conference, during which the student will be required to demonstrate their skills or knowledge through an alternative or mutually agreed-upon assignment. The grade of the alternate or agreed

upon assignment will be determined at the instructor's discretion with the highest possible score being 70%.

If it is determined that a student has violated final exam directions on Final Exam A or CBE Set 1, the exam will be scored as zero. The student may take Final Exam B or CBE Set 2 with the highest possible score being 70%.

The incident will be reported to Texas Tech K-12 Administration and documented in the student's file. Continued violations of Texas Tech University's Academic Integrity Policy will result in the removal of the student from the program.

## **Student/Parent Expectations**

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

The following are prohibited while using the Canvas interface:

- spamming;
- hacking; and
- using TTU or Canvas email for commercial purposes;

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 Canvas Inbox for sending messages to your instructor.

## **Submitting Assignments**

You will submit all assignments through Canvas, rather than by mail or email.

## **Technical Difficulties**

### ***Getting Help***

For student assistance with Canvas, 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 Canvas server needs to be taken down for maintenance, the Canvas 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., Canvas 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 Canvas, so communication with your instructor is critical in these circumstances.