

LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
English Language Arts Learning Expectations: Grade 8

Massachusetts
Standards

Strand:
Speaking and Listening

Students will be able
to:

Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (*one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led*) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. (*Standard 1*)

Big Ideas

- Discussions are an essential context for learning new concepts and ideas.
- Discussions make thinking public, allowing listeners to reflect on the thinking and problem solving process of others.
- Participants in discussions refine their thinking by expanding on the ideas of others, posing hypotheses, and working toward solutions to problems.
- Skilled presenters plan and deliver oral presentations by considering how to most effectively convey information to others in order to maintain an audience's interest, attention and respect.
- Through the study of English grammar and word usage, students gain more control over their speaking allowing them to deliver more precise messages.

Key Outcomes

Students will demonstrate an understanding of **speaking and listening**:

- Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (*e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally*) and evaluate the motives (*e.g., social, commercial, political*) behind its presentation. (*Standard 2*)
- Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation. (*Standard 4*)
- Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (*See grade 8 Language Standards 1 and 3 for specific expectations.*) (*Standard 6*)

Essential Knowledge and Skills

Students will:

- Come to discussions prepared having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion. (*Standard 1a*)

- Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed. *(Standard 1b)*
- Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas. *(Standard 1c)*
- Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented. *(Standard 1d)*
- Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced. *(Standard 3)*
- Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest. *(Standard 5)*