

Medford High School
Medford Vocational-Technical High School
Grades 9 -12
English/Language Arts Department

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ESSENTIAL LEARNINGS

This guide provides an overview of what a high school student should know and be able to do in English/Language Arts (ELA).

The Medford Public Schools is committed to providing all students with the academic and problem-solving skills essential for personal development, responsible citizenship, and life-long learning. The districtwide curriculum goals are as follows:

- *To develop high standards and expectations for all students*
- *To incorporate a balanced core of critical, essential learning that reflects national standards and the state curriculum framework for English/language arts*
- *To develop competency in communication, thinking, problem solving, research, and other critical skills*
- *To connect learning to relevant situations and experiences outside the school setting*
- *To measure student learning through multiple types of assessments, including the MCAS*
- *To integrate the curriculum, whenever possible, across subjects and grade levels*
- *To effectively integrate technology into the curriculum*
- *To recognize and respect the different needs, interests, and talents of all students*

The English program specifically addresses and provides practice in pertinent areas such as the state MCAS Test (gr. 10), the PSAT Test (gr. 10), the SAT Test (gr. 9-12), and the two Advanced Placement (AP) Tests (gr. 11 and 12). Medford High School is noted for its highly creative and unique honors program in grades 9-12, including the ninth grade *honors interdisciplinary* program with world history. All teachers at the secondary level work with a new curriculum (2001 edition) that stresses weekly writing, a research paper for each of four years, the reading of quality literature: classic, contemporary, and multicultural. All instruction is allied with the Massachusetts language arts Framework. Medford High School hosts an award-winning faculty, with five teachers, e.g., winners of the prestigious “World of Difference” award, presented to only ten teachers annually in New England. Summer reading is a requirement for all standard, honors and AP students.

The following are expected outcomes for all students at Medford High School and Medford Vocational High School, outcomes that ally with the Mass. language arts Framework:

Students will be able to

1. Use agreed-upon rules for formal and informal in small groups.
2. Pose questions, listen to the ideas of others, and contribute their own information or ideas in group discussions and interviews in order to acquire new knowledge.
3. Make oral presentations that demonstrate appropriate consideration of audience, purpose, and the information to be conveyed.
4. Acquire new vocabulary and use it correctly in reading and writing.

5. Describe and analyze the grammatical structure of the English language and the standard English conventions for sentence structure, usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
6. Describe and analyze how oral dialects differ from each other in English, how they differ from written standard English, and what role standard American English plays in informal and formal communication.
7. Describe and analyze how the English language has developed and been influenced by other languages.
8. Decode accurately and understand new words encountered in their reading materials, drawing on a variety of strategies as needed, and then use these words accurately in speaking and writing.
9. Identify the basic facts and essential ideas in what they have read, heard, or viewed.
10. Identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the characteristics of different genres.
11. Identify, analyze and apply knowledge of theme, fiction, non-fiction, and poetry and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.
12. Identify and analyze how an author's choice of words appeals to the senses, creates imagery, suggests mood, and sets tone.
13. Compare and contrast similar myths and narratives from different cultures and geographic regions.
14. Interpret the meaning of literary works, non-fiction, films and media by using different critical lenses and analytic techniques.
15. Plan and present effective dramatic readings, recitations and performances that demonstrate appropriate consideration of audience and purpose.
16. Write compositions with a clear focus, logically related ideas to develop it, and adequate detail.
17. Select and use appropriate genres, modes of reasoning, and speaking styles when writing for different audiences and rhetorical purposes.
18. Demonstrate improvement in organization, content, paragraph development, level of detail, style, tone and word choice in their compositions after revising them.
19. Use knowledge of standard English conventions to edit their writing.
20. Use self-generated questions, note-taking, summarizing, précis writing, and outlining to enhance learning when reading or writing.
21. Use open-ended research questions, different sources of information, and appropriate research methods to gather information for their research projects.
22. Develop and use appropriate rhetorical, logical, and stylistic criteria for assessing final versions of their compositions or research projects before presenting them to varied audiences.
23. Obtain information by using a variety of media and evaluate the quality of material they obtain.
24. Explain how the techniques used in electronic media modify traditional forms of discourse for aesthetic and rhetorical purposes.
25. Design and create coherent media productions with a clear controlling idea, adequate detail, and appropriate consideration of audience, purpose, and medium.