



Meeting PA Core Standards: English Language Arts

Young Playwrights' programs address many of the PA Department of Education's Core Standards for English Language Arts as adopted in March 2014. Our in-class programs are particularly effective in giving students the opportunity to practice literacy skills while performing true to life, authentic tasks. Below are a few key examples of how Young Playwrights addresses specific standards:

Reading Literature: Theme, Text Analysis, and Literary Elements

CC.1.3.A, CC.1.3.B, CC.1.3.C

Students learn these literary concepts as associated with drama and playwriting through experiential activities, and also through the text of student and professional playwrights. Students then apply this learning as they author an original play.

Reading Literature: Sources of Information and Knowledge of Ideas - *Optional*

CC.1.3.G and CC.1.3.H

Through opportunities for classrooms to attend and/or watch videos of theatre productions, students can compare that experience to the experience of reading a play on the page. Similarly, a residency can include an opportunity for students to contrast a play with other genres or sources of text with that same theme or from the same time period.

Writing: Narrative, Content and Organization

CC.1.4.M, CC.1.4.N, CC.1.4.O, CC.1.4.P, CC.1.4.Q, CC.1.4.X

Each individual student considers how to leverage literary elements and devices such as character, conflict, dialogue, and sequence of events to introduce and engage the audience to the world of the play and its themes.

Writing: Conducting Research - *Optional*

CC.1.4.U, CC.1.4.V

Playwriting can be tied to an interdisciplinary research project in which students present the results of their research in the form of a play. Many teachers have used playwriting as part of a multi-faceted research project in which the play complements a traditional research paper.

Writing: Production and Distribution of Writing Process

CC.1.4.T

In collaboration with theater professionals and their peers, students receive one-on-one feedback and apply that feedback to the further development of their plays. As theater is a collaborative art and real people must act out their works, student playwrights learn the need to edit their work for spelling, mechanics and usage errors.

Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration

CC.1.5.A, CC.1.5.B

Students' listening skills are developed as they learn how to be critical and responsive audiences for their classmates' plays. As audience members, students are encouraged to cite specific areas of a play as both evidence and explanation for their feedback. As playwrights, students are empowered to critically weigh received feedback against their ultimate intentions as a means of selecting what ideas to incorporate during the revision process.

Speaking and Listening: Conventions of Standard English

CC.1.5.G

Through reading and writing dialogue, students explore the uses and purposes of standard English, variations in dialect, formal and informal speech, and stereotypes based on language use.