

**2021 Instructional Material Summer Review Institute**

**Review Team Appraisal of Title  
6-8 English Language Arts**

This appraisal form is provided for use by educators responsible for the selection of instructional materials for implementation with districts and charter schools across New Mexico to meet the need of their student populations.

This appraisal form should be used in conjunction with the publisher provided Form D: Research Based Effectiveness Determination that supports this reviewed material which can be found on the Instructional Material Bureau website.

<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/instructional-materials/the-adoption-cycle/>

Text Title	StudySync Core ELA Grade 7, Student Online, 6-year subscription	Publisher	McGraw Hill LLC
SE ISBN	9780077008475	TE ISBN	9780077008482
SW ISBN		Grade Level/Content	Grade 7 ELA

**Core Instructional Material Designation** (*Core Instructional Material is the comprehensive print or digital educational material, including basal material, which constitutes the necessary instructional components of a full academic course of study in those subjects for which the department has adopted content standards and benchmarks.*)

**Recommended**  
(90% and above)



**Recommended with Reservations** (80-89%)



**Not Recommended and Not Adopted**  
(below 80%)



**Total Score** - The final score for the materials is averaged between the team of reviewers.

**Average Score**

100%

**Cultural and Linguistic Relevance Recognition** - *Materials are reviewed for relevant criteria pertaining to the support for teachers and students in the material regarding cultural relevance and the inclusion of a culturally responsive lens. Those materials receiving a score of 90% or above on the CLR portion of the review are recognized as culturally and linguistically relevant.*

**CLR Recognized**



**Average Score**

100%

Materials take into account cultural perspectives.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence (autofilled from All Content Appraisal tab):*

Materials take into account cultural perspectives in the various texts offered within the Library through the Cultural Responsive Seminars. There are cultural texts within units using compare/contrast. Materials include exercises and assignments that allow students to relate to real life experiences and cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Materials include photos, illustrations, language, and text that reflect multicultural diversity of the community, state, and nation.

Materials include a culturally responsive lens.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence (autofilled from All Content Appraisal tab):*

Materials do include a culturally responsive lens as seen in the vocabulary, modeling, reading, observing, and thinking to integrate culturally relevant pedagogy. Graphic organizers, writing prompts, collaborative discussions, and various texts provide prompts for writing about multiple cultural norms. Students reflect on their own lives in personal accounts in diversity and cultural language in the Blasts. Cultural traditions and home language are appropriately linked to lesson plans in order to facilitate learning through a culturally responsive lens.

**Standards Review** - Materials are reviewed for alignment with the state adopted content standards, benchmarks and performance standards.

Average Score

99%

Materials align with grade level ELA standards overall.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials do align with ELA standards as seen in the pacing guides, lesson plans, program overview, teacher resources, teacher edition, and student edition. The standards are readily available through a search in the digital platform. The library has a search by standard for text. The program guide provides supportive evidence that the standards are the main emphasis of this curriculum.

Materials align to reading standards.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials do align with reading standards as seen in the varied genres ranging from literature, poetry, narrative and informational text. The lexile levels are varied and grade appropriate. The topics are high interest level, enhancing student engagement. Diagnostic and short cycle assessments are included to monitor and evaluate student's reading proficiency throughout the year. Students are asked to dig deeply into the reading by analyzing, evaluating, comparing, and synthesizing text.

Materials align to writing standards.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials align to the writing standards as seen in the extended writing projects, prompts, graphic organizers, and a logical, well-developed writing process with collaborative peer review. Short constructed responses, research projects, narrative, and argumentative assignments are given for the students to show proficiency in writing. Materials focus on best practice strategies such as annotation, research, and application of the writing process to support grade-level writing skills. This includes citing evidence properly, plagiarism and evaluating sources for credibility.

Materials align to speaking and listening standards.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials do align to speaking and listening standards as seen in the collaborative conversations, the speaking and listening handbook, and in cultural responsive seminars. There are speaking and listening lessons that are sequential and skills that include formal and informal oral presentations.

Materials align to language standards.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials align to language standards as seen in each lesson plan and directly teach grade-level standards, including a language handbook. Vocabulary and grammar are emphasized in each unit. There are graphic organizers, tables, and charts to assist with vocabulary acquisition and word analysis. Resources are included that address grammar and usage conventions in the Academic Vocabulary for each lesson.

**ELA Content Review** - Materials are reviewed for relevant criteria pertaining to the support for teachers and students in the specific content area reviewed.

Average Score

100%

Materials provide a selection and range of high-quality texts worthy of students' time and attention, exhibiting exceptional craft and thought and/or providing useful information.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials provide a selection and range of high-quality texts as seen in the library, which contains 868 titles across varied genres. The six units are based on genre selections that meet grade-level standards and provide for a range of lexile levels so all students' interests and levels are met. The Blasts provide exceptional current events that make personal connections with students and ask higher order critical thinking questions. The reading selections are relevant and engaging to student interest and foster discussion through best learning strategies.

Questions in the materials are high-quality text-dependent and text-specific questions. The overwhelming majority of these questions are text-specific and draw student attention to the particulars in the text.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials provide questions that are high-quality text-dependent and text-specific. Questions in the materials incorporate Depth of Knowledge (DOK) question stems and require consistent practice in using the text and exploring inferences throughout the reading. Writing tasks routinely require close reading and ask for textual evidence to demonstrate student understanding. The use of annotation in the student edition allows for the students to understand the expectations of annotation within a text. The Your Turn offer consistent text-dependent and text-specific questions.

Materials provide scaffolding and supports to enable students' learning of English language arts.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials provide scaffolding and supports to enable students' learning of English language arts. Throughout the scope of the curriculum, there are a variety of embedded suggestions for differentiation in the instructional process for English Language Learners, struggling, and advanced learners. Each lesson has a scaffolding button, which gives the teacher suggestions for following best practices and addressing all student needs in the proficiency button. There are additional resources that include: A Foundational Skills Handbook, Newcomer EL support, and Standard English Learners Handbook.

**All Content Review** - Materials are reviewed for relevant criteria pertaining to the support for teachers and students in the material regarding the progression of the standards, lesson structure, pacing, assessment, individual learners and cultural relevance.

Average Score

100%

Materials are coherent and consistent with the standards that all students should study in order to be college and career ready.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials are coherent and consistent with the college and career ready standards. This can be seen in the Test Prep section of the resources, scope and sequence, and the grade 7 ELA overview. The Library offers various text genres and topics that engage all students. Multiple lesson strategies in the Teacher's Edition and in the program guide offer approaches that allow teachers to choose the best lesson to meet learner needs based on diagnostic analysis of data.

Materials are well designed and take into account effective lesson structure and pacing.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials are well designed and take into account effective lesson structure and pacing which can be seen in the pacing guide at the beginning of each lesson. The lessons support sequential learning. The lesson skills are easily practiced within each lesson, leading to a culminating writing assignment, oral presentation, and publishing extended writing assignments. The Unit overviews provide the basis of the structure of the lesson pacing.

Materials support teacher planning, learning, and understanding of the standards.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials strongly support teachers in the planning and instruction of each unit through a variety of resources and strategies. Teachers can find an online library that correlates standards to each activity. The language used in Your Turn, questions, and prompts aligns to the language of the standards. Standards are clearly labeled throughout all teacher resources. Materials offer teacher resources and tools to collect ongoing data and assessments about student progress on the standards.

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*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials offer teachers resources and tools to collect ongoing data and assessments about student progress on the standards. This can be seen in the program guide and teacher edition. An End of Unit Assessment Guide is provided and an end of unit assessment is offered in each unit. Ongoing progress checks can be conducted as often as the teacher wants to make regular changes to meet student needs. The Program guide offers teacher strategies for adjusting lesson plans. The program guide offers quantitative and qualitative analysis of each unit to support teachers in best practices.

Materials support effective use of technology to enhance student learning.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials do support effective use of technology to enhance student learning in the lesson plans. Students are taught how to utilize search engines for research projects, including how to check for reliable and credible sources. Each lesson has a video attached to it that engages students in collaborative discussions, vocabulary, and writing skills to enhance learning for all students.

Materials can be easily customized for individual learners.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials can be easily customized for individual learners. Accommodations and modifications are embedded in the teacher's edition in each unit for ELL, struggling, and advanced learners. There are multiple reading/writing/media/language activities for students that provide a wide variety of supplemental learning supports and enrichment activities to engage all students at every level of the learning journey. The proficiency scale at the top of each lesson gives the teacher strategies for addressing all learner abilities. Handbooks are offered to support ELLs. A Project Based learning handbook is provided to enrich learning opportunities.

Materials give all students extensive opportunities and support to explore key concepts.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials do give all students extensive opportunities and support to explore key concepts, which can be seen in the Beyond the Book activities, the program guide, the program overview, and in daily lesson plans. Many of the concepts are current and connected with historical comparisons. Different student learning styles are addressed within each lesson.

Materials take into account cultural perspectives.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials take into account cultural perspectives in the various texts offered within the Library through the Cultural Responsive Seminars. There are cultural texts within units using compare/contrast. Materials include exercises and assignments that allow students to relate to real life experiences and cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Materials include photos, illustrations, language, and text that reflect multicultural diversity of the community, state, and nation.

Materials include a culturally responsive lens.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials do include a culturally responsive lens as seen in the vocabulary, modeling, reading, observing, and thinking to integrate culturally relevant pedagogy. Graphic organizers, writing prompts, collaborative discussions, and various texts provide prompts for writing about multiple cultural norms. Students reflect on their own lives in personal accounts in diversity and cultural language in the Blasts. Cultural traditions and home language are appropriately linked to lesson plans in order to facilitate learning through a culturally responsive lens.

**Reviewers' Professional Summation** - These materials are reviewed by Level II and Level III educators from across New Mexico. The reviewers have brought their knowledge, experience and expertise into the review of these materials. They offer here their individual summary of the material as a whole.

Reviewer #: 34

*Background and experience:*

PhD Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment; ME Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment; BA Secondary English Teaching. Currently teach AP Language and Composition, English Enrichment; First Year Experience Dual Credit high school and as an adjunct instructor, and English I & III. I have a Special Education Certification. I have been teaching English for 15 years at the middle and high school levels.

*Professional summary of material:*

The materials are high quality curriculum. They integrate technology at high levels to prepare students with 21st century skills and for college and career readiness. There are numerous teacher resources to aid teachers in the development of all levels of student achievement. The data analysis tools keep a teacher informed of the status of their students' learning at all times. The program overview, guide, and scope and sequence prepare the teacher with endless resources within each lesson plan. The library has varied genres, a range of lexile text, and culturally responsive seminars to help engage students in discussion. The materials contain ongoing summative and formative assessments. I highly recommend this curriculum to be used in NM English Language Arts Classrooms. This review was conducted using the digital platform.

Reviewer #: 35

*Background and experience:*

Level III teacher with 9 years of experience in both Elementary and Middle School Language Arts. ELA endorsement. Master's Degree in in Educational Administration and Psychology.

*Professional summary of material:*

The materials cover and address the standards effectively through a wide variety of genres and resources for both teacher and student use. Thorough attention is given to meeting all of the necessary skills needed for college and career readiness through a significant collection of best practice activities. The selection of literary and nonfiction materials are covered at a very deep level to enhance student learning and foster mastery of the standard strands (reading/writing/language conventions/speaking and listening). The Extended Writing Projects, Oral and Multimedia Presentations, as well as collaborative discussions, allow students varied opportunities to make real world connections and applications to personal experiences. The materials are thorough and provide teachers with aligned guidance through the Overview, Scope and Sequence and Lesson Development. The multiple reading/writing/presentation guides, checklists, graphic organizers and charts assist in lesson planning and instructional design. Students are given resources that build and track continuous learning to foster critical thinking and deep self-reflection. A variety of cultures and perspectives are considered through the study of varied and diverse authors/cultures.

Reviewer #: 36

*Background and experience:*

Level III teacher with ten years of experience teaching special education. ELA endorsement. Master's degree in Creative Writing.

*Professional summary of material:*

The instructional materials are comprehensive, addressing the entirety of grade-level standards. Program guide, assessment guide, overview, handbooks and workbooks provide direct instruction of easily accessible, sequential lesson planning that directly models the teaching of grade-level standards--including reading, writing, language, and speaking and listening. Scaffolding and differentiation techniques are provided for each lesson, with the intent of engaging all students in learning. The student and teacher library is vast and inclusive, assigning texts from multiple Native, Hispanic, African American, and Asian American authors.