

**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 8, Student Online, 6-year subscription	Publisher	McGraw Hill LLC
SE ISBN	9780077008505	TE ISBN	9780077008512
SW ISBN		Grade Level/Content	Grade 8 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. There is support for English Language Learners throughout the text, including reading support and linguistic support. There are opportunities for students to engage with material from Hispanic, Native American and African American authors, as well as units specifically focused on Culture to make personal connections between the texts and students experiences.

Materials include a culturally responsive lens.

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

Materials include a culturally responsive lens. The materials address culturally diverse texts, including African-American, Hispanic and Native American, providing opportunities for students to connect their culture and personal experience to the material in a meaningful way.

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

Average Score

100%

Materials align with grade level ELA standards overall.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials align with grade level ELA standards overall. The text uses the wording of the standards and clearly aligns with the standards. The students are asked to support their responses with evidence from the text.

Materials align to reading standards.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

The materials are aligned to the reading standards. The text uses the language of the standards to mark and teach the concepts. Each time a new unit is introduced, the teacher's edition includes information for strategies to teach students at all reading levels, which allows students to strengthen comprehension. For teachers, each selection is presented with qualitative and quantitative measures with the level of difficulty and lexile clearly noted.

Materials align to writing standards.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

The materials are aligned to the writing standards. The text uses the language of the standards to mark and teach the concepts. There is a variety of graphic organizers to help scaffold writing tasks. Also, the writing tasks give students specific guidance in the mode. For example, in the argument writing mode, students are led to use the checklist for argumentative writing to assist in completing the assignments.

Materials align to speaking and listening standards.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

The materials are aligned to the speaking and listening standards. The text uses the language of the standards to mark and teach the concepts. The resources include oral presentation assignments, which allow students the opportunity to demonstrate understanding of these standards through application. Also, writing assignments regularly include a presentation of some kind, giving students regular opportunities to practice both speaking and listening skills. Collaborative conversations are also included within the Model component of the lesson to allow for further practice.

Materials align to language standards.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

The materials are aligned to the language standards. The text uses the language of the standards to mark and teach the concepts. The resources include various Checklists for Grammar and Your Turn opportunities to complete charts applying rules of grammar and language to writing. Each of the Language Conventions activities specifically tie to the selection, strengthening student understanding of the skill by utilizing the convention in their writing.

**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 worthy of students' time and attention, exhibiting exceptional craft and thought and/or providing useful information. The texts provided in the lesson plans, independent reads, and the library have a range of lexile levels to meet the needs of all students. The novel studies and current event topics provided in the Blasts exhibit craft and thought, providing students with useful information and making real-life connections.

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:*

Questions in the materials offer 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. The questions for students always include the requirement for text-specific evidence as support. The TE includes DOK levels for the questions, so teachers can easily track the types of questions asked and adjust instruction accordingly.

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. The TE provides multiple strategies and scaffolding to enable students with the learning of language arts. The scaffolds and strategies provided within the materials aid students of all abilities to comprehend the variety of text.

**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 high school standards that will prepare them for college and career readiness. Teachers have support with planning lessons and modifying them as needed. There are differentiated instruction features throughout, and regular and consistent attention is given to academic and upper-level vocabulary and grammar.

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. The scope and sequence and pacing guides aid in the effective lesson structure and pacing. The text suggests a variety of techniques to help structure and present each lesson. For example, all units begin with the teacher modeling the skill or concept before releasing students to begin work individually. There are many resources, such as graphic organizers, checklists, and notebooks, to aid the teacher and student in structure and pacing.

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

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials support teacher planning, learning, and understanding of the standards. The standards are integrated in the instruction. The text is consistent in using the language of the standards. The teacher support material also uses the language of the standards, which keeps instruction aligned.

Materials offer teachers resources and tools to collect ongoing data about student progress on the standards.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials offer the teacher resources and tools to collect ongoing data about student progress on the standards. The materials offer diagnostic assessments for reading and for grammar, usage and mechanics. Selection and Unit Tests are also included while frequent comprehension checks and writing tasks are offered in Collaborative Conversations and Your Turn assignments. Each text has assessments in reading comprehension, writing, and collaborative learning to check and monitor student growth and learning.

Materials support effective use of technology to enhance student learning.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials support effective use of technology to enhance student learning. Appropriately embedded digital supports are highly-engaging and enhance student learning.

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 TE and Lesson Overview sections provided in each unit for ELL, struggling, and advanced learners. There are multiple strategies that provide a wide variety of supplemental learning supports and enrichment activities to engage all students at every level of the learning journey.

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

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials give all students extensive opportunities and support to explore key concepts. All students are given opportunities to explore understanding of key concepts through discussions and Your Turn exercises. The materials attend to the context of each reading selection and provide compare and contrast exercises to help students see connections between texts. In addition, the questions and activities throughout the text support learning opportunities in key concepts.

Materials take into account cultural perspectives.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials take into account cultural perspectives. There is support for English Language Learners throughout the text, including reading support and linguistic support. There are opportunities for students to engage with material from Hispanic, Native American and African American authors, as well as units specifically focused on Culture to make personal connections between the texts and students experiences.

Materials include a culturally responsive lens.

*Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:*

Materials include a culturally responsive lens. The materials address culturally diverse texts, including African-American, Hispanic and Native American, providing opportunities for students to connect their culture and personal experience to the material in a meaningful way.

**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 English Secondary Teaching; AP Language & Composition, English Enrichment, English 1-4; College Success Class as dual credit & San Juan College; Special Education Specialist; Level III Teacher - 15 years.

*Professional summary of material:*

The materials presented are high quality materials. They provide numerous teacher resources in the planning guide, the pacing guides, the unit pacing guides, and the lesson plans provided in the teacher edition and student editions. The technology integrations are sequential and work with the lesson plans and the overall program guide. The library offers numerous texts that are integrated in the lesson plans plus numerous independent reads that enhance student learning. The Blasts offer current events as well as real-learning experiences. This review was done using digital materials.

Reviewer #: 35

*Background and experience:*

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

*Professional summary of material:*

The materials provide an excellent support for student learning and teacher planning. The materials cover and address the standards effectively through a wide variety of genres and resources for both teacher and student use. They contain diverse and well-crafted reading selections. 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 cover a very deep level to enhance student learning and foster mastery of the standards' 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. 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:*

Grade 8 instructional materials come with a high-interest and inclusive online library consisting of 891 well-crafted titles. With embedded and thought-provoking digital learning opportunities, the teacher lesson plans and student assignments are sequentially presented and easily accessible. Multiple guides are made available to support such topics as project based learning, English language learner supports, speaking and listening goals, and an extensive program guide. In conclusion, the materials provide a highly engaging and diverse ELA curriculum.