



SPRING GROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



PLANNED COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Title: Mock Trial Grade Level(s): 9-12 Units of Credit: 1 Classification: Elective	Length of Course: 30 cycles Periods Per Cycle: 6 Length of Period: 43 minutes Total Instructional Time: 129 hours
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Course Description

This course explores the legal system with skill-building in communication. Students learn about the core elements of a trial from the perspectives of lawyers, judges, bailiffs, and witnesses, and then practice communicating in a courtroom through a Mock Trial that they lead. Course content exposes students to legal concepts, vocabulary, and opportunities to practice communicating through a variety of roles in a trial. The course then shifts into preparation for a Mock Trial where students will analyze a specific case, select roles to play in the trial, and develop persuasive presentations of their role. After participating in an actual courtroom, students reflect on the experience and prepare a presentation. This includes an explanation and analysis of the Mock Trial they lead as well as an interactive presentation on the legal system that allows students to become teachers for their community, and share information about how to navigate trials. This course embeds communication skill-building that is essential for college and a variety of careers within the content about the court system.

Instructional Strategies, Learning Practices, Activities, and Experiences

Independent Reading Homework Oral Presentations	Reading and Writing Practice Guided Group Practice Guided Individual Practice	Primary Source Analysis Teacher Demonstrations Media Analysis
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Assessments

Essays Short Response Primary Source Documents Oral Exams	Homework Reading Responses Independent Project Vocabulary	Group Project Final Exam Media Responses Role Play
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Materials/Resources

Young Lawyers Division Statewide Mock Trial Case Materials	Princeton: Moot Trial Materials	Other Mock Trial Case Materials
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Adopted: 5/16/16

Revised:

CONTENT/KEY CONCEPTS	OBJECTIVES/STANDARDS
<p>How do people communicate and operate within courtrooms?</p> <p>How are trials decided and influenced?</p> <p>Approx. # of Class Sessions 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be able to (SWBAT) analyze the following as an oral presentation skill: make eye contact, speak at a good volume, and use clear pronunciation when speaking. • SWBAT demonstrate the oral presentation skills: make eye contact, speak at a good volume, and use clear pronunciation when speaking. • SWBAT define legal vocabulary including law, attorney, lawyer, trial, professionalism, and fact pattern. • SWBAT list the 5 W's (who, what, when, where, and why) used when analyzing an event. <p>1.6.12.A - Listen critically and respond to others in small and large group situations. Respond with grade level appropriate questions, ideas, information, or opinions.</p> <p>1.6.12.B - Demonstrate awareness of audience using appropriate volume and clarity in formal presentations.</p> <p>1.8.12.A - Formulate a clear research question and design a methodology for gathering and evaluating information on the chosen topic.</p> <p>1.1.12.A - Apply appropriate strategies to construct meaning through interpretation and to analyze and evaluate author's use of techniques and elements of fiction and nonfiction for rhetorical and aesthetic purposes.</p> <p>1.1.12.B - Use context clues, knowledge of root words and word origins as well as reference sources to decode and understand new words.</p> <p>1.1.12.C - Analyze textual context to determine or clarify the meaning of unfamiliar or ambiguous words and to draw conclusions about nuances or connotations of words.</p> <p>1.1.12.D - Demonstrate comprehension / understanding before reading, during reading, and after reading on a variety of grade level texts to support understanding of a variety of literary works from different cultures and literary movements.</p> <p>1.1.12.E - Demonstrate fluency in silent reading based upon specific grade level text.</p>

CONTENT/KEY CONCEPTS	OBJECTIVES/STANDARDS
<p>Read and interpret the case fact pattern.</p> <p>Legal Lingo Review</p> <p>Examine the 5 W's of the case.</p> <p>Approx. # of Class Sessions 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWBAT read and interpret the case fact sheet. • SWBAT interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, and orally). • SWBAT analyze the 5 W's of the case. • SWBAT understand the flow of a Mock Trial. • SWBAT explain and use legal concepts including: civil versus criminal cases and innocent until proven guilty. <p>5.1.12.B - Analyze the sources, purposes, and functions of law.</p> <p>5.1.12.E - Evaluate the principles and ideals that shape the United States and compare them to documents of government.</p> <p>5.1.12.F - Analyze and assess the rights of the people as listed in the Pennsylvania Constitution and the Constitution of the United States.</p> <p>5.1.12.I - Analyze historical examples of the importance of the rule of law explaining the sources, purposes, and functions of law.</p> <p>5.1.12.J - Analyze how the law promotes the common good and protects individual rights.</p>

CONTENT/KEY CONCEPTS	OBJECTIVES/STANDARDS
<p>Interpret the flow of a trial and the burden of proof.</p> <p>Approx. # of Class Sessions 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SWBAT make appropriate eye contact, speak at an adequate volume, and use clear pronunciation. ● SWBAT craft their message around your knowledge of your audience. ● SWBAT identify and understand the different roles that people play in a trial court. ● SWBAT explain and apply legal concepts including: Burden of proof and Reasonable Doubt. <p>5.1.12.B - Analyze the sources, purposes, and functions of law.</p> <p>5.1.12.E - Evaluate the principles and ideals that shape the United States and compare them to documents of government.</p> <p>1.6.12.B - Demonstrate awareness of audience using appropriate volume and clarity in formal presentations.</p> <p>1.8.12.A - Formulate a clear research question and design a methodology for gathering and evaluating information on the chosen topic.</p> <p>1.1.12.A - Apply appropriate strategies to construct meaning through interpretation and to analyze and evaluate author's use of techniques and elements of fiction and nonfiction for rhetorical and aesthetic purposes.</p>

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<p>Attorneys introduce and model cross/direct examinations.</p> <p>Examine differences between direct and cross examination.</p> <p>Write and practice cross examinations.</p> <p>Write and practice direct examinations.</p> <p>Approx. # of Class Sessions 24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SWBAT draw on preparation, reasoning, and reflection to form and clearly express your own ideas. ● SWBAT craft your message around your knowledge of your audience. ● SWBAT identify and differentiate between open and close ended questions. ● SWBAT identify and apply quality Cross and Direct examinations and differentiate between them. <p>1.6.12.A - Listen critically and respond to others in small and large group situations. Respond with grade level appropriate questions, ideas, information, or opinions.</p> <p>1.6.12.B - Demonstrate awareness of audience using appropriate volume and clarity in formal presentations.</p> <p>1.8.12.A - Formulate a clear research question and design a methodology for gathering and evaluating information on the chosen topic.</p> <p>1.1.12.A - Apply appropriate strategies to construct meaning through interpretation and to analyze and evaluate author's use of techniques and elements of fiction and nonfiction for rhetorical and aesthetic purposes.</p> <p>1.1.12.B - Use context clues, knowledge of root words and word origins as well as reference sources to decode and understand new words.</p> <p>1.1.12.C - Analyze textual context to determine or clarify the meaning of unfamiliar or ambiguous words and to draw conclusions about nuances or connotations of words.</p> <p>1.1.12.D - Demonstrate comprehension / understanding before reading, during reading, and after reading on a variety of grade level texts to support understanding of a variety of literary works from different cultures and literary movements.</p> <p>1.1.12.E - Demonstrate fluency in silent reading based upon specific grade level text.</p>

CONTENT/KEY CONCEPTS	OBJECTIVES/STANDARDS
<p>Attorneys model opening and closing statements.</p> <p>Examine differences between opening and closing statements.</p> <p>Write and practice presenting opening and closing statements.</p> <p>Students choose and advocate for which role they want to play in the Mock Trial.</p> <p>Select Mock Trial case and student roles.</p> <p>Approx. # of Class Sessions 18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SWBAT draw on preparation, reasoning, and reflection to form and clearly express your own ideas. ● SWBAT adapt to the context and/or task to create persuasive opening and closing statements. ● SWBAT understand and apply the difference between opening statements and closing arguments. <p>5.2.12.A - Evaluate an individual's civic rights, responsibilities, and duties in various governments.</p> <p>5.2.12.B - Evaluate citizens' participation in government and civic life.</p> <p>5.2.12.C - Interpret the causes of conflict in society and analyze techniques to resolve those conflicts.</p> <p>5.2.12.D - Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.</p> <p>1.4.12.B - Write complex informational pieces (e.g. research papers, literary analytical essays, evaluations) Make and support inferences with relevant and substantial evidence and well-chosen details. Identify and assess the impact of perceived ambiguities, nuances, and complexities within text.</p> <p>1.4.12.C - Write persuasive pieces. Use rhetorical strategies (e.g., exposition, narration, description, argumentation, or some combination thereof) to support the main argument or position. Clarify and defend positions with precise and relevant evidence, including facts, expert opinions, quotations, expressions of commonly accepted beliefs, and logical reasoning.</p> <p>1.5.12.A - Write with a clear focus, identifying topic, task, and audience.</p> <p>1.5.12.B - Develop content appropriate for the topic. Gather, organize, and determine validity and reliability of information. Employ the most effective format for purpose and audience. Write fully developed paragraphs that have details and information specific to the topic and relevant to the focus.</p> <p>1.5.12.C - Write with controlled and/or subtle organization. Establish coherence within and among paragraphs through effective transitions, parallel structures, and similar writing techniques.</p>

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<p>Attorneys model opening and closing statements.</p> <p>Examine differences between opening and closing statements.</p> <p>Write and practice presenting opening and closing statements.</p> <p>Students choose and advocate for which role they want to play in the Mock Trial.</p> <p>Select Mock Trial case and student roles.</p> <p>(continued)</p>	<p>1.5.12.D - Write with an understanding of style using a variety of sentence structures and descriptive word choices. Create tone and voice through the use of precise language.</p> <p>1.5.12.E - Revise writing to improve style, word choice, sentence variety, and subtlety of meaning after rethinking how questions of purpose, audience, and genre have addressed.</p>

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<p>Draft an opening and closing statement for the case (<i>all students; witnesses will use to better understand their position in the new trial</i>).</p> <p>Draft direct and cross examinations for the case (<i>all students; witnesses will use to anticipate questions and more persuasively communicate on cross/direct</i>).</p> <p>Practice their speaking parts in small groups.</p> <p>Approx. # of Class Sessions 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SWBAT delineate an argument and specific claims. ● SWBAT craft their message around knowledge of their audience. ● SWBAT draw on preparation, reasoning, and reflection to form and clearly express your own ideas. ● SWBAT understand and apply the importance of opening and closing statements and what makes each effective. ● SWBAT understand and apply elements of strong open and close ended questions through creating cross and direct examinations. <p>1.5.12.E - Revise writing to improve style, word choice, sentence variety, and subtlety of meaning after rethinking how questions of purpose, audience, and genre have addressed.</p> <p>1.5.12.F - Use grade appropriate conventions of language when writing and editing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spell all words correctly. ● Use capital letters correctly. ● Punctuate correctly. ● Use correct grammar and sentence formation. <p>1.6.12.A - Listen critically and respond to others in small and large group situations. Respond with grade level appropriate questions, ideas, information, or opinions.</p> <p>1.6.12.B - Demonstrate awareness of audience using appropriate volume and clarity in formal presentations.</p> <p>1.8.12.A - Formulate a clear research question and design a methodology for gathering and evaluating information on the chosen topic.</p> <p>1.8.12.B - Conduct inquiry and research on self-selected or assigned topics, issues, or problems using a wide variety of appropriate media sources and strategies. Demonstrate that sources have been evaluated for accuracy, bias, and credibility. Synthesize information gathered from a variety of sources, including technology and one's own research, and evaluate information for its relevance to the research question. Demonstrate the distinction between one's own ideas from the ideas of others, and includes a reference page.</p> <p>1.8.12.C - Analyze, synthesize, and integrate data, creating a reasoned product that supports and appropriately illustrates inference and conclusions drawn from research.</p>

CONTENT/KEY CONCEPTS	OBJECTIVES/STANDARDS
<p>Mock Trial Overview</p> <p>Full dress rehearsal of Mock Trial in roles</p> <p>Receive and give feedback on their persuasive communication and mastery of the case.</p> <p>Set specific actionable goals for improvement based on feedback.</p> <p>Approx. # of Class Sessions 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SWBAT make appropriate eye contact, speak at an adequate volume, and use clear pronunciation. ● SWBAT draw on preparation, reasoning, and reflection to form and clearly express your own idea. ● SWBAT apply legal terms and concepts from the apprenticeship in a full Mock Trial rehearsal. ● SWBAT demonstrate the facts and laws relevant to the case. ● SWBAT analyze the flow of the Mock Trial and who speaks and when? <p>1.6.12.A - Listen critically and respond to others in small and large group situations. Respond with grade level appropriate questions, ideas, information, or opinions.</p> <p>1.6.12.B - Demonstrate awareness of audience using appropriate volume and clarity in formal presentations.</p> <p>1.8.12.A - Formulate a clear research question and design a methodology for gathering and evaluating information on the chosen topic.</p> <p>1.1.12.A - Apply appropriate strategies to construct meaning through interpretation and to analyze and evaluate author's use of techniques and elements of fiction and nonfiction for rhetorical and aesthetic purposes.</p> <p>1.1.12.B - Use context clues, knowledge of root words and word origins as well as reference sources to decode and understand new words.</p> <p>1.1.12.C - Analyze textual context to determine or clarify the meaning of unfamiliar or ambiguous words and to draw conclusions about nuances or connotations of words.</p> <p>1.1.12.D - Demonstrate comprehension / understanding before reading, during reading, and after reading on a variety of grade level texts to support understanding of a variety of literary works from different cultures and literary movements.</p> <p>1.1.12.E - Demonstrate fluency in silent reading based upon specific grade level text.</p>

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<p>Full Mock Trial in a real courtroom with lawyers, Judges, students/professionals serving as the judge, jury, and audience</p> <p>Celebration of students and greet the audience</p> <p>Approx. # of Class Sessions 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWBAT adapt to the task to delineate an argument and specific claims with the audience in mind. • SWBAT make appropriate eye contact, speak at an adequate volume, and use clear pronunciation. • SWBAT draw on preparation, reasoning, and reflection to form and clearly express your own ideas. • SWBAT apply legal terms and concepts from the apprenticeship in a full Mock Trial. • SWBAT demonstrate understanding of the facts and laws relevant to the case. <p>1.1.12.B - Use context clues, knowledge of root words and word origins as well as reference sources to decode and understand new words.</p> <p>1.1.12.C - Analyze textual context to determine or clarify the meaning of unfamiliar or ambiguous words and to draw conclusions about nuances or connotations of words.</p> <p>1.1.12.D - Demonstrate comprehension / understanding before reading, during reading, and after reading on a variety of grade level texts to support understanding of a variety of literary works from different cultures and literary movements.</p> <p>1.1.12.E - Demonstrate fluency in silent reading based upon specific grade level text.</p> <p>1.2.12.A - Evaluate and critique text organization and content to determine the author’s purpose and effectiveness according to the theses, accuracy, thoroughness, logic, and reasoning.</p> <p>1.2.12.B - Distinguish among facts and opinions, evidence, and inference across a variety of texts by using complete and accurate information, coherent arguments and points of view.</p> <p>1.2.12.C - Examine the author’s explicit and implicit bias and assumptions, beliefs about a subject, use of fact and/or opinion, and/or the author’s argument or defense of a claim as related to essential and nonessential information.</p> <p>1.2.12.D - Evaluate textual evidence to make subtle inferences and draw complex conclusions based on and related to an author’s implicit and explicit assumptions and beliefs about a subject.</p>

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<p>Students reflect on their experiences and role in the Mock Trial.</p> <p>Students choose their roles for the trial. <i>(divide into two teams: one which will present on their specific Mock Trial case/experience and the other which will teach the audience about the flow of a trial and key legal concepts)</i></p> <p>Students draft scripts for their contribution to the trial presentation.</p> <p>Approx. # of Class Sessions 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SWBAT adapt to the task to create accurate and clear presentations on the facts and laws relevant to their case. ● SWBAT adapt to the task to create accurate and clear presentations of the flow of a trial court and how different people communicate in court. ● SWBAT include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, images, music, and sound) and visual displays in presentations information. ● SWBAT adapt to the task to create accurate and clear presentations on the facts and laws relevant to their case. ● SWBAT adapt to the task to create accurate and clear presentations of the flow of a trial court and how different people communicate in court. <p>5.1.12.C - Evaluate the importance of the principles and ideals of civic life.</p> <p>5.1.12.I - Analyze historical examples of the importance of the rule of law explaining the sources, purposes, and functions of law.</p> <p>5.1.12.J - Analyze how the law promotes the common good and protects individual rights.</p> <p>5.1.12.K - Analyze the roles of symbols and holidays in society.</p> <p>5.1.12.L - Analyze Pennsylvania and United States court decisions that have affected principles and ideals of government in civic life. (Civil rights, Commerce, Judicial review, Federal supremacy)</p> <p>5.2.12.A - Evaluate an individual's civic rights, responsibilities, and duties in various governments.</p> <p>5.2.12.B - Evaluate citizens' participation in government and civic life.</p> <p>1.5.12.A - Write with a clear focus, identifying topic, task, and audience.</p> <p>1.5.12.B - Develop content appropriate for the topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gather, organize, and determine validity and reliability of information. ● Employ the most effective format for purpose and audience. ● Write fully developed paragraphs that have details and information specific to the topic and relevant to the focus.

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<p>Full dress rehearsal for trial with props and visuals.</p> <p>Receive and give feedback on their persuasive communication and mastery of the content presented.</p> <p>Set specific actionable goals for improvement based on feedback.</p> <p>Approx. # of Class Sessions 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SWBAT make appropriate eye contact, speak at an adequate volume, and use clear pronunciation. ● SWBAT draw on preparation, reasoning, and reflection to form and clearly express your own ideas. ● SWBAT include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, images, music, and sound) and visual displays in presentations information. ● SWBAT explain the facts and laws relevant to their case. ● SWBAT explain the flow of a trial court and how different people communicate in court. <p>1.6.12.A - Listen critically and respond to others in small and large group situations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Respond with grade level appropriate questions, ideas, information, or opinions. <p>1.6.12.B - Demonstrate awareness of audience using appropriate volume and clarity in formal presentations.</p> <p>1.8.12.A - Formulate a clear research question and design a methodology for gathering and evaluating information on the chosen topic.</p> <p>1.8.12.B - Conduct inquiry and research on self-selected or assigned topics, issues, or problems using a wide variety of appropriate media sources and strategies. Demonstrate that sources have been evaluated for accuracy, bias, and credibility. Synthesize information gathered from a variety of sources, including technology and one's own research, and evaluate information for its relevance to the research question. Demonstrate the distinction between one's own ideas from the ideas of others, and includes a reference page.</p> <p>1.8.12.C - Analyze, synthesize, and integrate data, creating a reasoned product that supports and appropriately illustrates inference and conclusions drawn from research.</p> <p>5.1.12.C - Evaluate the importance of the principles and ideals of civic life.</p> <p>5.1.12.I - Analyze historical examples of the importance of the rule of law explaining the sources, purposes, and functions of law.</p> <p>5.1.12.J - Analyze how the law promotes the common good and protects individual rights.</p>

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<p>Select a topic for a Moot Court and research a Moot Court.</p> <p>Perform a Moot Court in front of a judge.</p> <p>Approx. # of Class Sessions 18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWBAT adapt to the task to delineate an argument and specific claims with the audience in mind. • SWBAT make appropriate eye contact, speak at an adequate volume, and use clear pronunciation. • SWBAT draw on preparation, reasoning, and reflection to form and clearly express your own ideas. • SWBAT apply legal terms and concepts from the apprenticeship in a full Moot Trial. • SWBAT demonstrate understanding of the facts and laws relevant to the case. • SWBAT define legal vocabulary including law, attorney, lawyer, trial, professionalism, and fact pattern. • SWBAT identify and understand the different roles that people play in a trial court. • SWBAT draw on preparation, reasoning, and reflection to form and clearly express your own ideas. • SWBAT explain the facts and laws relevant to their case. • SWBAT explain the flow of a trial court and how different people communicate in court. <p>1.6.12.A - Listen critically and respond to others in small and large group situations. Respond with grade level appropriate questions, ideas, information, or opinions.</p> <p>1.6.12.B - Demonstrate awareness of audience using appropriate volume and clarity in formal presentations.</p> <p>1.8.12.A - Formulate a clear research question and design a methodology for gathering and evaluating information on the chosen topic.</p> <p>1.1.12.A - Apply appropriate strategies to construct meaning through interpretation and to analyze and evaluate author's use of techniques and elements of fiction and nonfiction for rhetorical and aesthetic purposes.</p> <p>1.1.12.B - Use context clues, knowledge of root words and word origins as well as reference sources to decode and understand new words.</p> <p>1.1.12.C - Analyze textual context to determine or clarify the meaning of unfamiliar or ambiguous words and to draw conclusions about nuances or connotations of words.</p> <p>1.1.12.D - Demonstrate comprehension / understanding before reading, during reading, and after reading on a variety of grade level texts to support understanding of a variety of literary works from different cultures and literary movements.</p>

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<p>Select a topic for a Moot Court and research a Moot Court.</p> <p>Perform a Moot Court in front of a judge.</p> <p>(continued)</p>	<p>1.1.12.E - Demonstrate fluency in silent reading based upon specific grade level text.</p> <p>5.1.12.B - Analyze the sources, purposes, and functions of law.</p>

CONTENT/KEY CONCEPTS	OBJECTIVES/STANDARDS
<p>Independent research and design of our court system</p> <p>Independent research, writing, and analysis of academic endeavors</p> <p>Approx. # of Class Sessions 24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWBAT define legal vocabulary including law, attorney, lawyer, trial, professionalism, and fact pattern. • SWBAT list the 5 W's (who, what, when, where, and why) used when analyzing an event. • SWBAT draw on preparation, reasoning, and reflection to form and clearly express your own ideas. • SWBAT write, analyze and complete independent research in academic endeavors. <p>5.1.12.B - Analyze the sources, purposes, and functions of law.</p> <p>5.1.12.E - Evaluate the principles and ideals that shape the United States and compare them to documents of government.</p> <p>1.8.12.A - Formulate a clear research question and design a methodology for gathering and evaluating information on the chosen topic.</p> <p>1.1.12.A - Apply appropriate strategies to construct meaning through interpretation and to analyze and evaluate author's use of techniques and elements of fiction and nonfiction for rhetorical and aesthetic purposes.</p> <p>1.1.12.B - Use context clues, knowledge of root words and word origins as well as reference sources to decode and understand new words.</p> <p>1.1.12.C - Analyze textual context to determine or clarify the meaning of unfamiliar or ambiguous words and to draw conclusions about nuances or connotations of words.</p> <p>1.1.12.D - Demonstrate comprehension / understanding before reading, during reading, and after reading on a variety of grade level texts to support understanding of a variety of literary works from different cultures and literary movements.</p> <p>1.1.12.E - Demonstrate fluency in silent reading based upon specific grade level text.</p>

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<p>Independent research and design of our court system</p> <p>Independent research, writing, and analysis of academic endeavors</p> <p>(continued)</p>	<p>1.4.12.B - Write complex informational pieces (e.g. research papers, literary analytical essays, evaluations). Make and support inferences with relevant and substantial evidence and well-chosen details. Identify and assess the impact of perceived ambiguities, nuances, and complexities within text.</p> <p>1.4.12.C - Write persuasive pieces. Use rhetorical strategies (e.g., exposition, narration, description, argumentation, or some combination thereof) to support the main argument or position. Clarify and defend positions with precise and relevant evidence, including facts, expert opinions, quotations, expressions of commonly accepted beliefs, and logical reasoning.</p> <p>1.5.12.A - Write with a clear focus, identifying topic, task, and audience.</p>