

Glossary for English Language Arts Standards

author's purpose: Purpose is the goal or objective the author is trying to accomplish; the intention or reason for writing a text, for example: to persuade, to entertain, to describe, to explain.

collegial: Marked by camaraderie among colleagues.

domain-specific words and phrases: Vocabulary specific to a particular field of study: analogous to tier-three words.

expository text: Nonfiction, factual prose written to explain or convey information.

fallacious: Embodying a fallacy.

figurative language: Language that moves beyond the literal in which a figure of speech is used to heighten the meaning, for example: hyperbole, metaphor, personification, or simile.

general academic words and phrases: Vocabulary common to written texts but not commonly a part of speech.

informational text: Explanatory writing that serves one or more closely related purposes: to increase readers' knowledge of a subject, to help readers better understand a procedure or process, or to provide readers with an enhanced comprehension of a concept. Informational/explanatory writing conveys information accurately.

literary text: This category is used to classify literary works, usually by form, technique, or content: novel, essay, short story, comedy, epic.

narrative writing: Writing that conveys experience, either real or imaginary, and uses time as its deep structure. It can be used for many purposes: inform, instruct, persuade, or entertain. Narratives take many forms: creative fictional stories, memoirs, anecdotes, and autobiographies.

persuasive writing: The purpose is to convince the reader of an idea, to change the reader's mind, or to move the reader to action: letters to the editor, political pamphlets.

register: A variety of language used for a specific purpose or in a particular social setting; appropriate register depends upon the audience, purpose, topic, and location, for example: a different type of language may be used for speaking to friends than to teachers.

scaffolding: Temporary guidance or assistance provided to a student by a teacher, another adult, or a more capable peer, enabling the student to perform a task he or she otherwise would not be able to do alone, with the goal of fostering the student's capacity to perform the task independently.

technical text: Practical, accurate, and precise communication of specialized information that imparts facts, persuades with facts, or analyzes data or problems. The format is clear and efficient, often including headings, itemized lists with bullets, diagrams, or tables: instruction manual, scientific article, sales letter, letter of recommendation, proposal, or memo.