



## **Merit Software® Alignment to the Common Core State Standards**

Merit Software's reading, writing, and language products are excellent tools to help educators fulfill the requirements of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. These standards are grouped into broad anchor standards within which there are specific standards for each grade. Below is a brief guide for educators that correlates Merit web-based products to the Common Core anchor standards. Details about applying Merit programs to the grade-specific levels are available by contacting us directly.

### **Anchor Standards for Reading**

#### **Key Ideas and Details**

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Reading Skill Builder, Open-Punch, Book Punch

2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

Reading Skill Builder, Open-Punch, Book Punch

3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Reading Skill Builder, Open-Punch, Book Punch

#### **Craft and Structure**

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

Reading Skill Builder, Open-Punch, Book Punch

5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

Reading Skill Builder, Open-Punch, Book Punch

6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Reading Skill Builder, Open-Punch, Book Punch

## **Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

Open-Punch

8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

Reading Skill Builder, Open-Punch, Book Punch

9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Open-Punch

## **Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity**

10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently

Open-Punch

## **Anchor Standards for Writing**

### **Text Types and Purposes**

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch,  
Open-Punch, Book Punch, Business Letter Punch

2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

Book Punch, Open-Punch, Essay Punch

3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch,  
Open-Punch, Book Punch, Business Letter Punch

## **Production and Distribution of Writing**

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch,  
Open-Punch, Book Punch, Business Letter Punch

5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch,  
Open-Punch, Book Punch, Business Letter Punch

6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch,  
Open-Punch, Book Punch, Business Letter Punch

## **Research to Build and Present Knowledge**

7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Open-Punch

8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

Open-Punch

9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Open-Punch

## **Range of Writing**

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch,  
Open-Punch, Book Punch, Business Letter Punch

## Anchor Standards for Language

### Conventions of Standard English

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Grammar Fitness, Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Open-Punch, Book Punch, Business Letter Punch

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Grammar Fitness, Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Open-Punch, Book Punch, Business Letter Punch

### Knowledge of Language

3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Grammar Fitness, Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch, Open-Punch, Book Punch, Business Letter Punch

### Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.

Confused Words Fix-Up, Vocabulary Stretch, Vocabulary Super Stretch, Reading Skill Builder

5. Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

Confused Words Fix-Up, Vocabulary Stretch, Vocabulary Super Stretch, Reading Skill Builder

6. Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.

Confused Words Fix-Up, Vocabulary Stretch, Vocabulary Super Stretch, Reading Skill Builder