SpringBoard English Language Arts 2021©

Grades 6-12 Program Description

SpringBoard® is a high-quality English Language Arts instructional program for grades 6–12. Developed by teachers for teachers, SpringBoard offers core instructional materials in print and digital form that are aligned to College and Career Readiness Standards, Advanced Placement (AP) coursework, and the SAT Suite of Assessments. The research-based, comprehensive program features student materials, teacher resources, and formative and summative assessments, as well as professional learning for teachers and administrators. Designed to prepare and encourage all students to succeed in college and careers, SpringBoard was built around a simple core belief: if you give teachers the best materials, more engaging methods, and ongoing professional support, then student success will surely follow.

SpringBoard English Language Arts is a carefully-scaffolded, vertically articulated program that develops English language arts skills and content knowledge in all students and can be customized to meet a range of student needs using the core ELA curriculum along with Language Workshop, Close Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop, and our digital partners. Based on the Understanding by Design model, SpringBoard teaches students the skills and knowledge that matter most to meet AP and college and career readiness standards. Organized around performance-based embedded assessments that are the foundation of an instructional pathway, SpringBoard provides a clear road map forward that helps students take ownership of and accountability for their own learning. Teachers and students unpack the assessment, so that students know where they're heading and why the skills they're developing matter. Teachers and students receive clear, standards-aligned learning targets when they begin each activity, putting students in charge of how they learn to create a more dynamic classroom experience.

SpringBoard helps teachers translate the expectations of state standards into engaging daily lessons and focus on real classroom needs. We believe that reading, writing, speaking, and listening should all be learned together. You'll see examples of our integrated approach throughout our materials. And we put a special focus on close reading, giving students strategies and structure for developing this key skill.

SpringBoard and Pre-AP's shared instructional vision and principles are evident in every SpringBoard activity. We place a deliberate focus on learning that sets students on a pathway to AP and college readiness, enabling students to slow down and spend time tackling excellent texts and meaningful tasks. The principles of Close Observation and Analysis, Higher-Order Questioning, Academic Conversations, and Evidence-Based Writing are central to SpringBoard and are shared across every Pre-AP course, resulting in a powerful multiplier effect for students' skills across disciplines.

The Practice of Reading Closely

Texts take center stage in the SpringBoard ELA classroom, where students will prepare for close, critical reading of a wide range of materials. In SpringBoard ELA, we move right into compelling texts—fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, visuals, and film— and give teachers the tools, supports, and pedagogical approaches that will help students engage with the content. With teacher guidance, high school students develop the habits of close reading that will serve them for a lifetime.

- **As You Read:** Students prepare for the first reading of a text with guidance about which elements to notice and annotate, questions to ask before and during reading, and genre characteristics to pay attention to.

- **First Reading:** Students read and annotate. They begin to comprehend the text and uncover meaning as they read individually, in pairs, in groups, or together as a class.

- **Making Observations**: Students pause during or right after the first reading to observe the small details within a text in order to arrive at a deeper understanding of the whole.

- **Returning to the Text:** Students continue to deepen their understanding of the text by responding to a series of text-dependent questions. They use text evidence, speak with new vocabulary words, reflect on their classmates' ideas, and make connections among texts, ideas, and experiences.

- **Working from the Text:** Students use the text as a source as they move from reading and analysis to productive work, including academic discussion and writing.

- **Independent reading:** An integral part of every SpringBoard English Language Arts unit. At the beginning of each grade, students learn how to make a plan for independent reading that they apply throughout the year as they focus on new texts and goals in each unit.

Our Approach to Writing

SpringBoard English Language Arts provides a scaffolded approach to writing in all the major modes, emphasizing argumentative, informational, and narrative. Students write often, and they learn to become critical reviewers of their own and their peers' work through frequent opportunities for revision and editing. They learn to plan with purpose, audience, topic, and context in mind; develop drafts with engaging ideas, examples, facts and commentary; revise for clarity, development, organization, style, and diction; and edit using the conventions of the English language.

As students read texts by skilled authors, they observe the many choices those authors make. They tune in to the ways authors purposefully use words, sentences, and structures to convey meaning. After analyzing and critiquing others' work, students learn to apply their understanding of authors' craft to their own written products. A few SpringBoard features help them do just that:

- **Writing prompts** scaffold to the Embedded Assessments and give students practice with writing texts in multiple genres, including personal narratives, argumentative essays, editorials, letters, myths, research papers, and more. **Writing to Sources** writing prompts drive students back to texts they have read or viewed to mine for evidence.

- **Focus on the Sentence** tasks help students process content while also practicing the craft of writing powerful sentences.

- **Grammar & Usage** features highlight interesting grammar or usage concepts that appear in a text, both to improve students' reading comprehension and to help them attend to these concepts as they craft their own texts.

- **Language & Writer's Craft** features address topics in writing such as style, word choice, and sentence construction.

- **Language Checkpoints** offer in-depth practice with standard English conventions and usage and guide students to revise sample sentences as well as their own work.

SpringBoard provides multiple opportunities for authentic, task-based writing and writing to sources. Direct instruction in writing in different modes—narrative, argumentative, and informational—is a primary focus of each unit of instruction, and students learn to consider task, audience, and purpose in structuring and organizing their writing.

Support for Differentiation

We believe that purposeful planning leads to powerful learning experiences. That's why each unit starts with support for lesson planning, guidance on differentiation, and information about unit resources. A rich library of tools, resources, and supports lets teachers adapt their instruction for all students, including those who need extra support, those who are still learning English, and those who are ready to go further. And, in the Teacher Edition, every activity is organized into four phases: **Plan**, **Teach**, **Assess**, and **Adapt**. **Plan** contains information about pacing and materials. **Teach** guides the class through the main steps of the activity with thoughtful suggestions for how to conduct close readings, how to group students, and when to check for understanding. **Assess** calls out opportunities to measure student progress. **Adapt** suggests ways to adjust an activity in response to students' needs.

Assessment for Learning

With SpringBoard English Language Arts, teachers have frequent opportunities to monitor student progress over the course of the year. Assessment for learning is the philosophical basis of assessment opportunities in SpringBoard, and we make assessment and evaluation transparent and explicit so students and teachers can focus on the key skills and knowledge to be learned.

SpringBoard Digital

SpringBoard Digital is an interactive platform that provides always-available online content accessible from any device—desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or phone. In addition to the program materials within the platform, teachers and students have access to additional supports in reading, writing, and vocabulary development through our partnerships with Zinc Learning Labs and Turnitin Revision Assistant.

Research-based

Built on the research, pedagogy, and expertise from Wiggins and McTighe, American Institutes for Research, Charlotte Danielson, Marzano and Pickering, and Robyn Jackson, SpringBoard is a research-based, classroom-tested curriculum created by teachers for teachers. And the evidence is clear:

Statewide and nationwide studies demonstrate that SpringBoard is generating positive results. One measure of that success: SpringBoard has been shown to improve both engagement in the classroom and readiness for college. One nationwide study, comparing SpringBoard and non-SpringBoard schools, showed a considerable increase in the number of students enrolled in AP Exams and courses, as well as increased SAT performance.

SpringBoard helps more students succeed:

- High schools using SpringBoard showed a 48% increase in students taking AP Exams in English—and an even greater increase among black and Hispanic students.

- SpringBoard schools saw a 4–8% increase in AP and PSAT/NMSQT performance and saw SAT scores rise 26 points on average.
- High schools using SpringBoard for three to five years had substantially more students taking AP courses.
- SpringBoard has been shown to improve AP scores, particularly among black and Hispanic students.

To learn more, go to http://springboard.collegeboard.org.