



Summative Assessment ELA Range Achievement Level Descriptors

What are Range Achievement Level Descriptors?

Range Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) demonstrate how skills described in the Nebraska College and Career Ready (CCR) Standards likely change and become more sophisticated as ability and performance increases. The ALDs also describe the evidence needed to help infer where a student is along the range. This range is defined by Nebraska using three levels:

- Developing – not yet demonstrating proficiency
- On Track – demonstrating proficiency
- College and Career Benchmark – demonstrating advanced proficiency

The ALDs help show the within-standard reasoning complexity that increases in sophistication as the achievement levels increase. Such skill advancement is often related to increases in content difficulty, increases in reasoning complexity, and a reduction in the supports required for students to demonstrate what they know within a task or item.

The Range ALDs provide a way to communicate a progression that is visible and usable to all stakeholders, while also providing a foundation for a robust bank of assessment items that meets the needs of all Nebraska students.

How were Nebraska's ELA ALDs created?

After the 2018 ELA Cut Score Review, Nebraska educators and stakeholders drafted ALDs for grades 3 through 8. NDE reviewed the draft and provided feedback which was then incorporated.

NSCAS ELA
Grade 7 Range ALDs

ALD	Indicator No.	Indicator Text	Developing	On Track	CCR Benchmark
			With a range of texts with text complexity commonly found in Grade 7, a student performing in Developing can likely	With a range of texts with text complexity commonly found in Grade 7, a student performing in On Track can likely	With a range of texts with text complexity commonly found at the intersection of Grade 7 and Grade 8, a student performing in CCR Benchmark can likely
text complexity					
Reading Vocabulary					
	LA 7.1	Reading: Students will learn and apply reading skills and strategies to comprehend text.			
	LA 7.1.5	Vocabulary: Students will build and use conversational, academic, and content-specific grade-level vocabulary.			
	L.A. 7.1.5.a	Apply knowledge of Greek, Latin, and Anglo-Saxon roots, prefixes, and suffixes to understand complex words, including words across content areas.	Identify and apply knowledge of common Greek, Latin, and Anglo-Saxon roots, prefixes, and suffixes to understand explicitly taught words across content areas.	Apply knowledge of Greek, Latin, and Anglo-Saxon roots, prefixes, and suffixes to understand words, including words across content areas.	Apply knowledge of uncommon Greek, Latin, and Anglo-Saxon roots, prefixes, and suffixes to understand complex and sophisticated words, including words across content areas.
	LA 7.1.5.b	Select and apply knowledge of context clues (e.g., word, phrase, sentence, and paragraph clues) and text features to determine meaning of unknown words.	Select and apply knowledge of explicit context clues (e.g., synonyms and appositives) and basic text features to determine meaning of unknown words.	Select and apply knowledge of context clues (e.g., synonyms and paragraph features) and text features to determine meaning of unknown words.	Select and apply knowledge of nuanced and/or implicit context clues (e.g., connotation and paragraph features) and text features to determine meaning of sophisticated, unknown words.
	LA 7.1.5.c	Acquire new academic and content-specific grade-level vocabulary, relate to prior knowledge, and apply in new situations.	Acquire grade-level vocabulary and relate to prior knowledge.	Acquire new academic and content-specific grade-level vocabulary, and relate to prior knowledge, and apply in new situations.	Acquire and use new academic and content-specific vocabulary, relate to prior knowledge, and apply accurately in new situations.
	LA 7.1.5.d	Analyze and use semantic relationships (e.g., multiple meanings, synonyms, antonyms, figurative language, connotations, subtle distinctions) to determine the meaning of words, aid in comprehension, and improve writing.	Identify and use basic semantic relationships (e.g., multiple meanings, synonyms, antonyms) to understand word meaning and comprehend text.	Analyze and use semantic relationships (e.g., multiple meanings, figurative language) to determine word meaning, aid in comprehension, and improve writing.	Analyze and use sophisticated semantic relationships (e.g., figurative language, analogies, connotations, and subtle distinctions) to determine the meaning of words, aid in comprehension, and improve writing.

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	LA 7.1.5.e	Verify meaning and pronunciation of words or phrases using reference materials.	When prompted, use reference materials (e.g., dictionary, translation tool, search engine) to identify meaning and/or pronunciation of words or phrases.	Use reference materials (e.g., dictionary, thesaurus, translation tool, search engine) to identify and/or verify meaning and/or pronunciation of words or phrases.	Use multiple reference materials (e.g., dictionary, thesaurus, translation tool, search engine) to verify meaning and/or pronunciation of words or phrases.
Reading Comprehension					
	LA 7.1	Reading: Students will learn and apply reading skills and strategies to comprehend text.			
	LA 7.1.6	Comprehension: Students will construct meaning by applying prior knowledge, using text information, and monitoring comprehension while reading increasingly complex grade-level literary and informational text.			
	LA 7.1.6.a	Analyze the meaning, reliability, and validity of the text considering author's purpose and perspective.	Identify author's explicit purpose and perspective.	Analyze the meaning, reliability, and validity of the text, considering author's purpose and/or perspective.	Analyze the meaning, reliability, and validity of the text, considering author's subtle purpose and/or perspective.
	LA 7.1.6.b	Analyze and explain the relationships between elements of literary text (e.g., character development, setting, plot, conflict, point of view, theme).	Identify and explain clear relationships between basic elements of literary text (e.g., character development, setting, plot, point of view).	Analyze and explain the relationships between elements of literary text (e.g., character development, setting, plot, point of view, theme).	Analyze and explain the complex or inferred relationship between complex elements of literary text (e.g., character development, setting, plot, conflict, point of view, theme).
	LA 7.1.6.c	Analyze the author's use of literary devices (e.g., simile, metaphor, personification, idiom, oxymoron, hyperbole, alliteration, onomatopoeia, analogy, tone, mood).	Identify and explain the author's use of literary devices (e.g., simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration, onomatopoeia).	Analyze author's use of literary devices (e.g., simile, metaphor, personification, idiom, oxymoron, hyperbole, alliteration, onomatopoeia, analogy).	Analyze author's sophisticated use of literary devices (e.g., simile, metaphor, personification, idiom, oxymoron, hyperbole, alliteration, onomatopoeia, analogy, tone, mood).
	LA 7.1.6.d	Summarize, analyze, and synthesize a literary text and/or media, using key details to support interpretation of the theme.	Create a summary of a literary text, using key details.	Summarize, analyze, and synthesize a literary text using key and/or media details to support interpretation of the theme.	Summarize, analyze, and synthesize a literary text and/or media using key details to support a nuanced interpretation of a complex theme.

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	LA 7.1.6.e	Summarize, analyze, and synthesize an informational text and/or media, using supporting details to formulate the main idea.	Create a summary of an informational text, using supporting details to formulate the main idea.	Summarize, analyze, and synthesize an informational text and/or media, using details to identify and formulate the main idea.	Summarize, analyze, and synthesize a sophisticated informational text and/or media, using implicit supporting details to formulate the main idea.
	LA 7.1.6.f	Apply knowledge of text features to locate information and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of print and digital text.	Use text features are directed to locate information and explain how the information contributes to a basic understanding of print and digital text.	Apply knowledge of text features and explain how the information contributes to the interpretation of the print and/or digital text.	Analyze text features to support nuanced comprehension and explain how this information builds understanding of print and digital text.
	LA 7.1.6.g	Cite specific textual evidence to analyze and make inferences based on the characteristics of a variety of literary and informational texts.	Cite textual evidence to support inferences based on the basic characteristics of a variety of literary and informational texts.	Cite specific and relevant textual evidence and make inferences in order to analyze the characteristics of literary and informational text.	Cite the most specific and relevant textual evidence to analyze and make inferences based on the complex characteristics of a variety of literary and informational texts.
	LA 7.1.6.h	Explain the social, historical, cultural, and biographical influences in a variety of texts, citing textual evidence from literary and informational text to develop a regional, national, and international multicultural perspective.	Identify the social, historical, cultural, and biographical influences in a variety of texts.	Explain the social, historical, cultural, and biographical influences in a variety of texts, citing relevant textual evidence from literary and informational text to develop a regional, national, and international multicultural perspective.	Analyze the complex social, historical, cultural and biographical influences in a variety of texts, citing the most relevant textual evidence from literary and informational text to develop a sophisticated regional, national, and international multicultural perspective.
	LA 7.1.6.i	Construct and/or answer literal, inferential, critical, and interpretive questions and support answers with explicit evidence from the text or additional sources.	Answer literal and critical questions and support answers with evidence from the text or additional sources.	Construct and/or answer literal, inferential, and critical questions and support answers with explicit and relevant evidence from the text or additional sources.	Construct and/or answer complex literal, inferential, critical, and interpretive questions and support answers with the most relevant evidence from the text or additional sources.

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text complexity					
	LA 7.1.6.j	Apply knowledge of organizational patterns to comprehend informational text (e.g., sequence/chronological, description, spatial, cause and effect, compare/contrast, fact/opinion, proposition/support).	Apply knowledge of explicit organizational patterns to comprehend informational text (e.g., sequence/chronological, cause and effect, compare/contrast	Apply knowledge of multiple organizational patterns within the same passage to comprehend informational text (e.g., sequence/chronological, description, cause and effect, compare/contrast, fact/opinion).	Apply knowledge of multiple and implicit organizational patterns to thoroughly comprehend informational text (e.g., sequence/chronological, description, spatial, cause and effect, compare/contrast, fact/opinion, proposition/support).
	LA 7.1.6.k	Select text for a particular purpose (e.g., answer a question, solve problems, enjoy, form an opinion, understand a specific viewpoint, predict outcomes, discover models for own writing, accomplish a task), citing evidence to support analysis, reflection, or research.	Use provided text for a particular purpose (e.g., answer a question, enjoy, understand a specific viewpoint, form an opinion), citing evidence to support research.	Independently select text and cite evidence for a particular purpose (e.g., answer a question, solve problems, enjoy, form an opinion, understand a specific viewpoint, predict outcomes, discover models for own writing, accomplish a task) to support analysis, reflection, or research.	Independently select multiple texts and cite evidence for a particular purpose (e.g., answer a question, solve problems, enjoy, form an opinion, understand a specific viewpoint, predict outcomes, discover models for own writing, accomplish a task) to support analysis, reflection, or research.
	LA 7.1.6.l	Build background knowledge and activate prior knowledge to clarify text, deepen understanding, and make text-to-self, text-to-text, and text-to-world connections while reading complex text.	Build background knowledge and activate prior knowledge to clarify text and deepen understanding while reading text.	Build background knowledge and activate prior knowledge to clarify text, deepen understanding, and make connections while reading complex text.	Build background knowledge and activate prior knowledge to clarify text, deepen understanding, synthesize concepts, and make text-to-self, text-to-text, and text-to-world connections while reading complex text(s).
	LA 7.1.6.m	Self-monitor comprehension and independently apply appropriate strategies to understand text.	Self-monitor comprehension using provided strategies to understand text.	Self-monitor comprehension and independently apply appropriate strategies to understand text.	Self-monitor comprehension and independently apply appropriate strategies to understand complex text(s).

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text complexity					
	LA 7.1.6.n	Make and confirm/modify inferences with text evidence while previewing and reading literary, informational, digital text, and/or media.	Confirm inferences with text evidence while previewing and reading simple literary, informational, digital text, and/or media.	Make and confirm inferences with text evidence while previewing and reading literary, informational, digital text, and/or media.	Make and confirm/modify sophisticated inferences with implicit text evidence while previewing and reading complex literary, informational, digital text, and/or media.
	LA 7.1.6.o	Demonstrate an understanding of complex text using textual evidence via multiple mediums (e.g., writing, artistic representation, video, other media).	Demonstrate an understanding of text using textual evidence via multiple mediums (e.g., writing and video).	Demonstrate an understanding of a complex text using textual evidence via multiple mediums (e.g., writing, artistic representation, video, other media).	Demonstrate nuanced understanding of a complex text using textual evidence via multiple mediums (e.g., writing, artistic representation, video, other media).
	LA 7.1.6.p	Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story, drama, or poem resembles or differs from the text or script.	Identify the ways in which a filmed or live production of a story, drama, or poem resembles or differs from the text or script.	Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story, drama, or poem resembles or differs from the text or script.	Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story, drama, or poem resembles or differs from the text or script and the impact or purpose for alterations between forms.
Writing Skills					
	LA 7.2	Writing: Students will learn and apply writing skills and strategies to communicate.			
	LA 7.2.1	Writing Process: Students will apply the writing process to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish writing using correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and			
	LA 7.2.1.a	Use prewriting activities and inquiry tools to recursively generate ideas, organize information, guide writing, and answer questions.	Use provided or directed prewriting activities and inquiry tools to generate a simple idea, organize information, guide writing, and/or answer basic questions.	Use prewriting activities and inquiry tools to recursively generate ideas, organize information, guide writing, and answer questions.	Self-select and use prewriting activities and inquiry tools to recursively generate ideas, organize information, guide writing, and answer complex questions.

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text complexity					
	LA 7.2.1.b	Generate a draft that conveys complex ideas through analysis and use of organizational patterns that are suited to the purpose and intended audience and includes a strong thesis, body, conclusion, and appropriate transitions linked to the purpose of the composition.	Generate a draft that conveys ideas through basic analysis and the use of foundational organizational patterns which may include a thesis, body, conclusion, and simple transitions related to the purpose of the composition.	Generate a draft that conveys ideas through analysis and use of organizational patterns that are suited to the purpose and intended audience and includes a strong thesis, body, conclusion, and appropriate transitions linked to the purpose of the composition.	Generate a sophisticated draft that conveys nuanced ideas through in-depth analysis and use of complex organizational patterns that are best suited to the purpose and intended audiences and includes a strong thesis, body, conclusion, and stylistic transitions relevant to the purpose of the composition.
	LA 7.2.1.c	Gather and use relevant information and evidence from multiple authoritative print and/or digital sources including primary and secondary sources to support claims or theses.	Gather and use related information from preselected primary and secondary sources in an attempt to support a claim or thesis.	Gather and use relevant information and evidence from authoritative print and/or digital sources including primary and secondary sources to support claims or theses.	Gather and use the most relevant information and evidence from a variety of authoritative print and/or digital sources including primary and secondary sources to thoroughly support and develop nuanced or sophisticated claims and/or theses.
	LA 7.2.1.d	Compose paragraphs with grammatically correct simple, compound, and complex sentences of varying length and complexity.	Compose paragraphs with grammatically correct simple and compound sentences.	Compose paragraphs with grammatically correct simple, compound, and complex sentences of varying length and complexity.	Compose paragraphs with grammatically correct simple, compound, and complex sentences of varying length and complexity using stylistic and purposeful syntax.
	LA 7.2.1.e	Revise to improve and clarify writing through self-monitoring strategies and feedback from others.	Revise writing based on feedback and with support from others.	Revise to improve and clarify writing through self-monitoring strategies and feedback from others.	Thoroughly revise to improve and clarify writing through self-monitoring strategies and applying feedback from others.

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	LA 7.2.1.f	Provide oral, written, and/or digital descriptive feedback to other writers.	Attempt to provide related oral, written, and/or digital feedback to other writers.	Provide oral, written, and/or digital descriptive feedback to other writers.	Provide descriptive, purposeful, reflective, and meaningful oral, written, and/or digital feedback to other writers.
	LA 7.2.1.g	Adjust writing processes to persevere in short and long-term writing tasks of increasing length and complexity.	Adjust writing processes to persevere in short-term writing tasks.	Adjust writing processes to persevere in short and long-term writing tasks of increasing length.	Adjust writing processes to persevere in short and long-term writing tasks of increasing length and complexity.
	LA 7.2.1.h	Proofread and edit writing recursively for format and conventions of standard English (e.g., spelling, capitalization, grammar, punctuation, syntax, semantics).	Proofread and edit writing recursively for basic format and conventions of standard English (e.g., spelling, capitalization, grammar, punctuation) when prompted or guided.	Proofread and edit writing recursively for format and conventions of standard English (e.g., spelling, capitalization, grammar, punctuation, syntax, semantics).	Proofread and edit writing recursively for format, conventions, and stylistic effects of standard English (e.g., spelling, capitalization, grammar, punctuation, syntax, semantics).
	LA 7.2.1.i	Display academic honesty and integrity by avoiding plagiarism and/or overreliance on any one source and by following a standard format for citation.	Identify examples of plagiarism and academic honesty and integrity.	Display academic honesty and integrity by avoiding plagiarism and/or overreliance on any one source and by following a standard format for citation.	Display academic honesty by avoiding plagiarism and/or overreliance on one source by consistently following a standard format for citation.
	LA 7.2.1.j	Publish a legible document using a variety of media, and apply formatting techniques to enhance the readability and impact of the document (e.g., fonts, spacing, design, images, citations).	Publish a document using media, and attempt to apply some formatting techniques (e.g., fonts, spacing, design, images, citations).	Publish a legible document using a variety of media, and apply formatting techniques to enhance the readability and impact of the document (e.g., fonts, spacing, design, images, citations).	Publish a legible document using a variety of media, and apply sophisticated formatting techniques to enhance the readability, impact, and meaning of the document (e.g., fonts, spacing, design, images, citations).

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	LA 7.2.2	Writing Modes: Students will write in multiple modes for a variety of purposes and audiences across disciplines.			
	LA 7.2.2.a	Communicate information and ideas effectively in analytic, descriptive, informative, narrative, poetic, persuasive, and reflective modes to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.	Communicate simple information and ideas in a mode (e.g. analytic, descriptive, informative, narrative, poetic, persuasive, and/or reflective) to an audience using a media or format.	Communicate information and ideas effectively in analytic, descriptive, informative, narrative, poetic, persuasive, and reflective modes to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.	Communicate complex information and sophisticated ideas effectively in analytic, descriptive, informative, narrative, poetic, persuasive, and reflective modes to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.
	LA 7.2.2.b	Provide evidence from literary or informational text to support analysis, reflection, and research.	Provide evidence from a literary or informational text in an attempt to support simple analysis, reflection, or familiar research topics.	Provide relevant evidence from literary or informational text to support analysis, reflection, or research.	Provide the most relevant evidence from a complex literary or informational text to thoroughly support analysis, sophisticated reflection, or unfamiliar research topics.
	LA 7.2.2.c	Conduct and publish both short and sustained research projects to answer questions or solve problems using multiple primary and/or secondary sources to support theses.	Conduct and publish both short and sustained research projects in an attempt to answer basic questions or to solve simple problems using primary or secondary sources to support a thesis.	Conduct and publish both short and sustained research projects to answer questions or solve problems using multiple primary and/or secondary sources to support theses.	Conduct and publish both short and sustained research projects to answer self-generated, complex questions or solve multi-layered problems using multiple primary and secondary sources to support theses.
	LA 7.2.2.d	Use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.	Use basic word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.	Use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.	Skillfully use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.
	LA 7.2.2.e	Analyze various mentor texts and/or exemplars in order to create a similar piece.	Identify basic and explicit characteristics from mentor texts and/or exemplars in order to create a similar piece.	Analyze characteristics in various mentor texts and/or exemplars in order to create a similar piece.	Analyze subtle characteristics in various mentor texts and/or exemplars in order to create a similar piece.