

Implementing Common Core Standards

Torrie K. Edwards

L.9-10.1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Through the unit, students will develop grade-level competence with standard English grammar in writing and speech. The unit is designed to reinforce and push mastery of this skill by connecting previous explicit grammar instruction with various writing tasks.

L.9-10.2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

In “Crash Course,” students will combine previous instruction of grammar conventions with low and high stakes writing tasks. Students will also reinforce grammar and mechanics knowledge through consistent revision of writing assignments.

L.9-10.3. 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.

Students come to this unit having already had direct grammar instruction. This unit focuses on different applications of language. By using relevant assignments and incorporating twenty-first century skills, “Crash Course” shows students how language may be constructed differently to achieve different specific goals. With a more nuanced understanding of how others use language and grammar to a particular end, students can be more effective communicators in various writing and speaking tasks.

W.9-10.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

As students come into the curriculum unit with a base of grammar knowledge, we also focus on reinforcing those skills through practice in the unit. Students then spend “Crash Course” reading research about the significance of language construction in politics, academic achievement, and real-world success. Finally, students apply their knowledge of writing development, organization, and style to a variety of tasks and audiences, ranging from friendly emails to college application essays.