

What makes Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) innovative?

The [Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 9-12 \(2020\)](#) help all students read, understand, and express their understanding of complex, grade-level texts. The ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) units build students' understanding and knowledge through text sets, compelling questions, and integrated reading and writing activities.

In Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 9-12, students

- Explore [central questions](#) that connect units in a year-long pathway;
- Examine [texts by diverse authors and about substantive topics](#);
- Engage in varied reading, discussion, writing, and presentation opportunities in and out of class; and
- Experience integrated instruction and assessment leading to a comprehensive ELA experience.

Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks (2020) were designed with four guiding principles in mind.

Learning Community

The guidebook units are designed to help students establish, build, and expand their **learning community**. Students work both collaboratively and independently throughout the guidebook units.

Knowledge

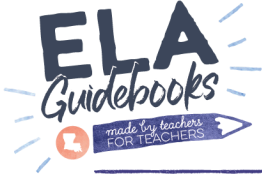
Each guidebook unit is based on a text set. Text sets are a series of texts organized around an anchor text or topic that guide and focus student learning and knowledge development.

Text sets represent a diversity of authors and genres while also providing coherence among the texts so that students systematically **build knowledge of substantive texts and topics**. Text sets are built around authentic, celebrated texts that give students the opportunity to dig deeply into topics to help students build knowledge of the world around them and prepare students for college, careers, and civic life.

Choice and Flexibility

The design of the ELA Guidebooks allows opportunities for flexibility and choice for both teacher and student.

At the program level, teachers choose which development guidebooks to include in the grade or course. At the lesson level, a provided suite of optional support and extension activities allows a teacher to choose which activities to include within the lesson to best support student needs. Specific guidance on how to adjust lessons for timing and students' needs is provided.



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Students also make choices within the guidebook units. Students are able to choose independent and group reading texts throughout the year. In the final guidebook unit of the year, the application guidebook, students choose an area of study that interests them to explore a text or topic related to one of the development guidebooks.

Coherent System of Instruction and Assessment

Everything that a student needs to master grade level standards is provided in the guidebooks and is openly licensed. This includes a **coherent system of curriculum-embedded assessments**. Each guidebook unit concludes with a culminating task, which requires students to incorporate the knowledge, skills, and habits they have developed throughout the unit.

In the guidebook units, assessment is accomplished through three main practices: monitor, diagnose, and evaluate. A sample unit evaluation plan is [available](#).



Louisiana's Open Source Platform

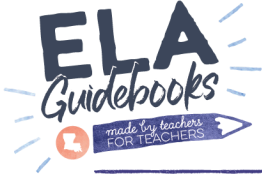
Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) are housed on Louisiana's open source, digital platform, [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#).

Text Access and Purchasing Information

Text purchasing for Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) are available through [American Reading Company](#) and [XanEdu](#).

Professional Learning Opportunities

In collaboration with SchoolKit and Teaching Lab, the Department has created open source professional learning modules for Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020). Professional learning is also available through approved vendors in the [Louisiana PL Partner Guide](#).



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A Preview of Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020)

Unit Text and Topic Overview

Grade	Development 1	Development 2	Development 3	Development 4	Development 5	Development 6	Application Unit
9	Photojournalism	A Lesson Before Dying	The Joy Luck Club	Romeo and Juliet	The Teenage Brain	Cost of Freedom <i>Coming Soon</i>	Grade 9 Application Unit
10	Life of Pi	Hamilton	Things Fall Apart	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Bioethics	Storytelling <i>Coming Soon</i>	Grade 10 Application Unit
11	The Great Gatsby	Friday Night Lights	Film In America	The Warmth of Other Suns	Homeownership	The Holocaust	Grade 11 Application Unit
12	Education	Hamlet	In the Time of the Butterflies	1984	Artificial Intelligence	Impact of War	Grade 12 Application Unit

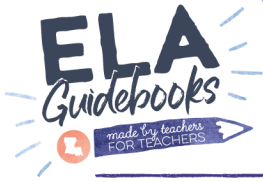
A **draft** of the complete text list for Development 1 - 5 units is [available](#).

Central Questions and Culminating Tasks

Unit	Central Question	Culminating Task	Text Type
Grade 9			
Photojournalism	What is the weight of an image?	How have photographers inspired change through photojournalism?	Informational/ Explanatory
A Lesson Before Dying	What makes us human?	What is a lesson that Grant and Jefferson learn about what it means to be human and how do they learn this lesson? How is this lesson also supported in the other texts from the unit?	Informational/ Explanatory
The Joy Luck Club	How does one's understanding affect one's perception?	How does gaining a deeper awareness of others' experiences allow characters in <i>The Joy Luck Club</i> to change their perceptions?	Narrative
Romeo and Juliet	How can adaptations or reproductions enhance or detract from the theme of a text?	Compare and contrast the way in which that theme is developed in the play <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> and in one of the following movies: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> (Zeffirelli), <i>Romeo + Juliet</i> (Luhrmann), or <i>West Side Story</i> (Wise, Robbins).	Informational/ Explanatory
Teenage Brain	How do decisions and actions vary depending on the perspectives of the people involved?	Does being a teenager positively or negatively affect decision making?	Argument
Grade 10			
Life of Pi	How do our stories reveal our realities?	Retell a scene from <i>Life of Pi</i> from another point of view, e.g., an omniscient narrator, a different character, to reveal a different perspective or reality.	Narrative
Hamilton	How does Lin-Manuel Miranda tell Hamilton's story?	Analyze the ways in which Miranda both accurately and inaccurately portrays history within the musical <i>Hamilton</i> . How do these choices in portrayal impact the reader or listener's understanding of either the character, time period, or musical?	Informational/ Explanatory

Things Fall Apart	What is the danger of a single story?	How does Achebe develop and use a secondary character to convey a theme about multiple stories in <i>Things Fall Apart</i> ?	Informational/ Explanatory
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	How can we leave a legacy through our language, our families, and even our cells?	How do Rebecca Skloot and the author of one of the informational texts use language to advance their points of view about their ideas?	Informational/ Explanatory
Bioethics	Are the principles of bioethics sufficient in the treatment of people with mental illness?	Develop an argument in response to the unit question: Are the principles of bioethics sufficient in the treatment of people with mental illness?	Argument
Grade 11			
The Great Gatsby	How do perceptions influence people's lives?	How does Fitzgerald develop a theme about perception throughout the novel?	Informational/ Explanatory
Friday Night Lights	How do high school sports reflect American society?	What two central ideas does Bissinger develop about high school football within <i>Friday Night Lights</i> ? How does Bissinger develop these two central ideas throughout the course of the text?	Informational/ Explanatory
Film In America	What is the relationship between American film and culture?	Consider the tradition of film and the role it has played over the last 100 years in America. What is the purpose of film? Do existing cultural norms influence film production or do Americans model themselves after the films they see?	Informational/ Explanatory
The Warmth of Other Suns	How can a single decision change your life?	How did a person's life change as a result of the decision to migrate?	Informational/ Explanatory
Homeownership	Is the dream of homeownership viable for all Americans?	Through reading of unit texts and additional research, develop a perspective and argumentative position in response to the unit question: <i>Is the dream of homeownership viable for all Americans?</i> - within a more focused subtopic area.	Argument
The Holocaust	How does fear shape us?	How do decisions made in times of crisis impact people's lives, and how does fear shape their decisions?	Informational/ Explanatory

Grade 12			
Education	What does it mean to be educated?	Write a narrative essay in which you explore how your life experiences and schooling have contributed to your education.	Narrative
Hamlet	How are revenge and madness closely related to one another?	In a well-developed essay, select one character from the <i>Hamlet</i> and examine whether or not his/her madness is real or feigned. If a character is feigning his/her madness, analyze the reasons why the character would do this? If the character's madness is genuine, analyze what has caused such 'madness' to arise in the character?	Informational/ Explanatory
In the Time of the Butterflies	How can average citizens bring about social change?	How does Alvarez use literary techniques, such as narrative structure and characterization, to develop a fictionalized version of one of the Mirabal sisters? How does the sister's story help Alvarez develop a theme about social change?	Informational/ Explanatory
1984	How can an individual's view of society be influenced by literature?	Consider how literary and artistic depictions of dysfunctional societies prompt an audience to reflect on the parallels between a fictional, dystopian society and their own. Explain the extent to which such reflection can shape an individual's view of certain aspects of modern society. Focus your examination and explanation on one of the following themes: • The impact of surveillance and technology on freedom and safety; • The ways government systems distribute and maintain authority (e.g., censorship, propaganda, rituals and ceremonies); or • The manipulation of emotions to influence human behavior.	Informational/ Explanatory
Artificial Intelligence	How has artificial intelligence both challenged and benefited society?	Considering the various visions of the future of artificial intelligence portrayed throughout the texts of the unit, how might its development be guided to benefit society but minimize harm? Do the benefits to society outweigh the potential harm AI might inflict on humanity?	Argument



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Impact of War	How does war impact societal norms?	How does war impact societal norms? Write an explanatory essay in response to the question by comparing the characters from the novel to two or three historical figures from the additional unit texts.	Informational/ Explanatory
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