

Text Genres

Shift 1: Balancing Informational and Literary Texts

Grades 6-12 ELA and Literacy in History / Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects

“...the Standards demand that a significant amount of reading of informational texts take place in and outside the ELA classroom ... requires much greater attention to a specific category of informational text—literary nonfiction—than has been traditional. Because the ELA classroom must focus on literature ... as well as literary nonfiction, a great deal of informational reading in grades 6– 12 must take place in other classes.

Distribution of Literary and Informational Passages by Grade in the 2009 NAEP Reading Framework

Grade	Literary	Information
8	45%	55%
12	30%	70%

Source: New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards for ELA and Literacy...(page 5)

Literature

Story grammar: characters, setting, plot – problem, important events, solution- and theme

Informational Text

Predominantly expository structures with: print features and captions, table of contents, index, diagrams, glossary, and tables

Fictional Narratives

- Short Stories
- Novels
- Myths/Fables/Tales

Poetry

- Sonnets
- Free Verse
- Limericks
- Haiku

Drama

- Comedy
- Tragedy
- Melodrama
- Farce

Narrative Structures

- Biography
- Autobiography
- Memoir

*Expository Structures

The standards emphasize arguments and other literary nonfiction, built on informational (expository) text structures, rather than narrative literary nonfiction that are structured as stories (such as memoirs or biographies)

- Description
- Sequence or Time / Order
- Compare and Contrast
- Cause and Effect
- Problem / Solution

- Essays
- Speeches
- Opinion Pieces
- Journalism
- Historical, Scientific and Other Documents for a Broad Audience