

CALIFORNIA ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS CONTENT STANDARDS CALL FOR
EXTENSIVE OUTSIDE READING

Background Information for Letter Writing

Customize for your grade level

As stated in the *The Reading/Language Arts Framework for California Public Schools*, CDE, 1999, the English-language arts content standards require that:

“...**by grade four**, students read one-half million words annually, including a good representation of grade-level-appropriate narrative and expository text (e.g., classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, online information). In **grade two**, students make substantial progress toward this goal.” (p 77)

“In **grade three**, students make substantial progress toward this goal.” (p 92)

“...by the end of **middle school**, students will have read one million words annually on their own, including a good representation of narrative (classic and contemporary literature) and expository (magazines, newspapers, online) instructional materials. One million words translate to about 15 to 20 minutes of reading per day.” (p 154)

Also, the standards state that:

“Students in the **ninth and tenth grades** are expected to read independently about one and one-half million words annually. (One million words are expected to be read annually by the end of the eighth grade and two million words annually by the end of the **twelfth grade**.)... For the grade-level reader, two million words translate to about 11 pages per day or one 335-page book each month.” (p 186)

The Reading/Language Arts Framework also highlights the school library as the “focal point of reading”. (p 247)

“The center’s collection consists of learning resources and technologies carefully selected to meet the teaching and learning needs of teachers and their students and supports curriculum and instruction at the point of need. The collection should contain at least 20 books per student professionally selected in accordance with a district selection policy.” (p 247)

The school library provides student access to a broad spectrum of reading choices to assist them in meeting these standards.