

✓ Seventh-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 1-10)

- Use more than one quote or detail from a story to explain what it says and what it means.
- Figure out the big idea of a story or article and how it grows or changes from beginning to end.
- Explain how characters or events in a story work together (like how a setting can affect a character's actions).
- Understand tricky words, rhymes, and sounds in poems or stories, and explain how they change the meaning or feeling.
- Explain how the structure of a poem or drama (like a speech or a special format) helps you understand its meaning.
- Show how the author makes characters or narrators think differently, and explain how their opinions or views are shown.
- Compare a book or story to a movie or video version and explain how they are the same or different using things like sounds, pictures, or actions.
- Compare how a made-up story and a real story from the same time or topic are similar or different, and how that helps us understand history.
- Be able to read and understand challenging books and stories by the end of the year—even ones with big ideas or new vocabulary.
- Use several quotes or clues from a text to explain both what it says clearly and what it hints at.

✓ Seventh-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 11-20)

- Find two big ideas in a nonfiction text and explain how they grow or change from beginning to end.
- Explain how people, events, or ideas are connected in a nonfiction text (like how one person influenced an event).
- Understand and explain tricky words in nonfiction, including those that affect tone or how the text makes you feel.
- Show how the way a text is organized helps make the big idea clearer (like how the sections fit together).
- Tell what the author believes or wants you to think, and how their writing shows that.
- Compare what you read to what you see or hear in a video or podcast, and explain how each one shows the topic differently.
- Read an argument and decide if the reasoning makes sense and if the evidence is strong and convincing.
- Compare how two authors write about the same topic and how they use different facts or ideas to share their message.
- Read and understand challenging nonfiction books by the end of the year—even if you need some help.
- Write an opinion or argument and support it with clear reasons and strong facts.

✓ Seventh-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 21-30)

- Explain your opinion, think about other points of view, and organize your reasons in a way that makes sense.
- Use real facts and logic to support your opinion and show that you understand the topic.
- Use linking words (like "because," "for example," or "on the other hand") to connect your ideas clearly.
- Write in a more serious or formal style when needed—not like texting or casual talking.
- End your argument writing with a strong final paragraph that supports your opinion.
- Write to explain something clearly using facts and organized information.
- Start with a clear topic, organize your ideas with tools like headings or charts, and group your information so it's easy to follow.
- Add facts, quotes, and details to help explain your topic better.
- Use transition words (like "also," "but," or "as a result") to make your writing flow smoothly.
- Use strong and specific words to explain your ideas clearly.

✓ Seventh-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 31-40)

- Keep your writing formal when explaining or teaching something.
- Finish your writing with a clear ending that matches and supports everything you explained.
- Write a story (real or made-up) with interesting details, characters, and a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- Start your story in a way that helps the reader know who is telling it, who the characters are, and what happens in order.
- Use things like talking (dialogue), timing (pacing), and descriptions to help tell what's going on in the story.
- Use transition words (like “then,” “suddenly,” or “after that”) to help show when things happen or change.
- Use clear, strong words and details that help readers picture what's happening in the story.
- End your story with a conclusion that makes sense and fits what happened.
- Make sure your writing is clear, well-organized, and matches what you're trying to do and who it's for.
- Get help from others to improve your writing by planning, fixing mistakes, rewriting, or trying new ideas.

✓ Seventh-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 41-50)

- Use a computer or the internet to write, share your work, and give credit when you use other people's ideas or sources.
- Do a research project by asking a question and using different sources to find answers—and maybe come up with more questions to explore.
- Find trustworthy information online or in books, put it in your own words, and give credit to where you found it.
- Use stories or nonfiction texts as evidence to help explain your thoughts or prove a point.
- Use what you know from stories to compare how authors write about a certain time or topic and how they make it feel real.
- Use what you know from nonfiction to figure out if an author's opinion makes sense and if they have good reasons and evidence to support it.
- Write for both long and short periods depending on the task—like writing a quick paragraph or working on a big report over several days.
- Work well with others in group talks or one-on-one by sharing your ideas and building on what others say.
- Come to a group discussion ready by reading or researching the topic first so you can share helpful ideas.
- Follow group rules, do your part, and help keep the group on track to reach a goal.

✓ Seventh-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 51-60)

- Ask smart questions and give helpful answers that keep the discussion focused.
- Be willing to change your mind or agree with new ideas if someone else makes a good point.
- Look at facts and examples from videos, pictures, or talks and explain how they help you understand the topic better.
- Decide if a speaker's argument makes sense and if their reasons are strong and believable.
- Share your opinion clearly by using facts and examples, and speak so people can hear and understand you.
- Use things like pictures or slides when giving a talk to help explain your points better.
- Change the way you speak depending on who you're talking to and the situation (formal or casual).
- Use correct grammar and rules when writing or speaking.
- Explain how parts of a sentence (like phrases and clauses) work and what they do.
- Use different kinds of sentences—simple, compound, and complex—to make your writing more interesting.

✔ Seventh-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 61-70)

- Make sure all parts of your sentence are in the right place and easy to understand.
- Use correct capital letters, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- Use commas the right way when describing something with two adjectives (like “a long, fun day”).
- Spell words correctly.
- Use clear and simple words to say exactly what you mean without repeating yourself too much.
- Use clues in the sentence to help you figure out what a tricky word means.
- Use parts of words (like Greek or Latin roots) to help figure out what a word means (for example, “rebel” or “belligerent”).
- Use dictionaries, glossaries, or online tools to check how to say a word or what it means.
- Guess what a word means based on how it’s used in the sentence—then double-check using a dictionary.
- Understand special word meanings (like idioms), how words are related, and how they’re slightly different.

✓ Seventh-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 71-74)

- Understand and explain references in writing, like when authors mention famous stories or sayings from the Bible or mythology.
- Use what you know about synonyms (same meaning), antonyms (opposites), and analogies to understand new words better.
- Know that words can have the same definition but feel different (for example, “polite” vs. “diplomatic”).
- Use strong, smart vocabulary when reading and writing, especially for school or learning new topics.