

## ✓ Eighth-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 1-10)

- Use quotes and details from the text to explain what it says and what it means, even if it's not said directly.
- Find the big idea in a story or article and explain how it grows and changes throughout the text, including how it connects to the characters and events.
- Explain how specific lines of talking or action in a story move the plot forward or reveal something important about a character.
- Understand tricky words in a story, including ones with special meanings, and explain how word choices affect the tone or mood.
- Compare two texts and explain how the way each one is written affects its meaning and style.
- Explain how characters and readers may know different things in a story, and how that creates suspense or humor (like when the reader knows a secret the character doesn't).
- Watch a movie or play and decide how closely it follows the original story—and whether the choices made by the director or actors made it better or different.
- Read a modern story and explain how it uses ideas or characters from older stories, myths, or the Bible, and how it makes them feel new.
- By the end of the year, be able to read and understand challenging books, stories, and poems all by yourself.
- Use the best quotes and details from a text to explain what it says and what it means clearly.

## ✓ Eighth-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 11-20)

- Find the main idea of a nonfiction text and explain how it grows and connects to other ideas throughout the piece.
- Explain how different people, ideas, or events are compared or grouped in a nonfiction text to help you understand them better.
- Understand tricky words in nonfiction and explain how the words chosen affect how we understand the text.
- Explain how different parts of a nonfiction article help explain and build on the main idea.
- Tell what the author believes and explain how they show their opinion or respond to others' ideas.
- Decide the best and worst parts of using things like videos, articles, or websites to teach or explain something.
- Decide if an author's opinion makes sense and if the proof they give is strong, or if some of the proof doesn't belong.
- Compare two texts about the same topic and explain how and why they give different information or opinions.
- By the end of the year, read and understand tough nonfiction texts all by yourself—even ones with big ideas or hard words.
- Write your opinion and back it up with clear reasons and strong evidence.

## ✓ Eighth-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 21-30)

- Share your opinion clearly, explain other sides, and organize your reasons so they make sense.
- Use facts and logic to support your opinion and show you understand the topic well.
- Use transition words and phrases (like “however,” “for example,” and “as a result”) to connect your ideas and reasons smoothly.
- Write with a serious tone when you’re trying to sound professional or make a strong point.
- End your opinion writing with a strong final paragraph that matches what you were trying to prove.
- Write to explain something clearly by organizing your ideas and using facts and examples.
- Start with a clear topic and use headings, charts, and categories to organize your ideas so people can easily follow them.
- Add facts, quotes, and strong examples to help explain your topic better.
- Use different types of transition words to connect your ideas smoothly and clearly.
- Use smart, specific words to explain your ideas in a way people understand.

## ✓ Eighth-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 31-40)

- Keep your writing formal (not like texting or casual talking) when explaining something important.
- End your writing with a final section that brings everything together clearly.
- Write real or made-up stories that include great details and a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- Start your story by clearly showing who's telling it, who the characters are, and what's happening—so it makes sense.
- Use things like dialogue, timing, and description to show what characters are doing and feeling.
- Use transition words like “then,” “next,” and “meanwhile” to show the order of events and how they are connected.
- Use strong words and details to help your reader picture what's going on and how it feels.
- End your story in a way that makes sense and matches what happened.
- Make sure your writing is clear, organized, and fits what you're writing about and who it's for.
- Get help to improve your writing by planning, editing, and rewriting—especially to make sure it matches your goal and audience.

## ✓ Eighth-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 41-50)

- Use the internet or a computer to write, publish, and explain how your ideas and information are connected.
- Do a research project by asking a question and using many different sources to find answers and new questions to explore.
- Find good, trustworthy information from books or websites and explain it in your own words, giving credit to where you found it.
- Use stories or articles to help you explain your thoughts, support your ideas, or do research.
- Read modern stories that use ideas or characters from older stories (like myths or the Bible), and explain how they make them feel new again.
- Decide if a nonfiction text makes a strong argument by checking if the reasons and evidence are believable and fair.
- Write for both short and long amounts of time, depending on the project or task.
- Take part in group talks by sharing your ideas, listening to others, and helping the group stay focused.
- Be ready for class talks by reading or learning about the topic ahead of time and using what you've learned to help the discussion.
- Follow group rules, stay on task, and help your group reach its goal.

## ✓ Eighth-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 51-60)

- Ask good questions and give helpful answers using facts and smart thinking.
- Listen to others and be willing to change your mind if they have good evidence.
- Watch or read presentations (like videos or speeches) and figure out the purpose behind them—like if they’re trying to sell, persuade, or inform.
- Explain what a speaker is trying to say, whether their reasons make sense, and if their evidence is actually helpful.
- Share your ideas clearly by using good facts and speaking with confidence (use eye contact and a strong voice!).
- Use pictures, charts, or other visuals in your presentation to help explain and support your ideas.
- Change how you speak depending on who you’re talking to (formal for a speech, casual with friends).
- Use proper grammar when speaking or writing.
- Understand special kinds of verbs (like “to run,” “running,” or “ran”) and how they work in sentences.
- Know when to use active and passive voice verbs in your writing.

## ✓ Eighth-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 61-70)

- Use different verb moods (like telling someone what to do, asking a question, or sharing a wish) in the right way.
- Fix sentences where the verb tense or mood suddenly changes and doesn't make sense.
- Use correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- Use commas, dashes, or ellipses (...) to show a pause in a sentence.
- Use an ellipsis (...) when leaving out words in a sentence.
- Spell words correctly when you write.
- Use special types of verbs to show different effects—like who's doing the action or how sure someone is.
- Figure out what tricky or unknown words mean by using different reading strategies.
- Use clues from the sentence or paragraph to help figure out what a word means.
- Use parts of words (like “pre-” or “re-”) from Greek or Latin to understand new words.

## ✓ Eighth-Grade Friendly ELA Checklist (Goals 71-77)

- Use dictionaries or online tools to find the meaning or pronunciation of a word.
- Make a good guess about what a word means from the sentence—then double-check using a dictionary.
- Understand fun or creative language (like puns or wordplay) and know what those words really mean.
- Understand special sayings or expressions (like jokes or hidden meanings in phrases).
- Use what you know about word pairs—like opposites and synonyms—to understand tricky words better.
- Know the feeling that different words give off, even if they mean the same thing (like “determined” feels stronger than “willing”).
- Use smart, school-appropriate vocabulary to clearly understand or explain what you’re reading or writing.