

September 13, 2017

Dear Family,

**Welcome to SpringBoard English Language Arts** ***Grade 7, Unit 2: What Influences My Choices?***

**Overview**

I’ve decided to start with unit 2 because the expository and argumentative writing will assist your student in their performance on the standardized assessment. In this unit,students explore the ideas of informing, explaining, and convincing. Two **essential questions** focus their attention on the skills and knowledge presented and assessed in the unit:

* *What role does advertising play in the lives of youth?*
* *What makes an effective argument?*

Students answer these questions through the activities and assessments in the unit.

**Assessments**

Twoperformance-based tasks, called **Embedded Assessments**, give students an opportunity to demonstrate their new learning in the skills of exposition and argumentation. Specifically,

* **Embedded Assessment 1** asks students to write an essay explaining the role of advertising in the lives of youth and to exchange ideas in a collaborative discussion.
* **Embedded Assessment 2** asks students to argue an issue of importance.

In both cases, students demonstrate their ability to organize ideas, support claims, and incorporate textual evidence.

**Developing Skills and Knowledge for the Assessments**

Throughout the unit, students engage in activities in which they use **strategies** such as *SOAPSTone, outlining,* and *debate* to practice the important **skills** of analyzing texts in addition to generating and organizing ideas for writing. Students analyze and discuss a variety of print and nonprint texts such as Sojourner Truth’s speech “Ain’t I a Woman?” and “America the Not-So-Beautiful” by Andy Rooney. Throughout the unit, discussion is promoted as a way to encourage lively debate about ideas.

Students’ **vocabulary study** concentrates on **academic vocabulary** of research, such as *hypothesize, valid,* and *credibility*, and **vocabulary specific to literary study** such as *expository* and *rhetoric*.

**Helping Your Child**

Students should be practicing every day in class for their upcoming performance on the Embedded Assessment. Help your child reflect on and focus his or her learning by asking the following questions:

* What did you learn today? What **texts** did you read, discuss, and respond to in writing or speaking? What **strategies** did you use during your reading, discussing, and writing?
* What did you learn today that will help you succeed on the upcoming Embedded Assessment? What do you still need to practice?

You may also find it helpful to read through the **Embedded Assessments** (particularly the **Scoring Guides**) and to note the **Learning Targets** that are located at the beginning of each activity.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kernan