



The Young Journalist helps students prepare for both FSA Reading and Writing Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) English Language Arts (ELA) Reading and Writing Assessments.

Florida routinely examines student's language, speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Students' abilities are benchmarked against the Florida Standards specific to the ELA examinations, called the Language Arts Florida Standards (LAFS). All these skills are tested in two main examinations: the FLA ELA Reading assessment and the FLA Writing assessment.

### **What is on the FSA ELA Writing Assessment?**

- Students demonstrate their ability to organize their ideas and express their thoughts in a clear manner.
- Students must write in an informative manner or explanatory manner to convey information and ideas with clarity and accuracy.
- Students must develop narratives for nonfiction events, using appropriate structure and details.
- Students must write coherently and clearly.
- Students must plan, edit, revise, rewrite, or restructure texts to increase the strength and quality of the text.
- Students must use the internet.
- Students must conduct research on both broad and focused questions and topics.
- Students must gather information from multiple sources, including digital resources, and assess the credibility of each source and the accuracy of information.
- Students must write for various purposes, tasks and audiences, enabling reflection, research and revision of writing.

### **What is Examined in the FSA ELA Reading Assessment?**

- Students must cite evidence drawn directly from the text to support their arguments.
- Students must identify and determine connotative (words that offer a secondary meaning), figurative (You say your hands are frozen, or you are so hungry you could eat a horse. That's being figurative.) and technical meanings within a text.
- Students must analyze sentence, paragraph, and passage structure.
- Students must identify and examine specific claims within the text, evaluating the validity of the evidence and reasoning.
- Students must compare and analyze two different texts, how authors approach themes and how the texts address topics.
- Students must be proficient at reading (aloud) and comprehending simple and complex informational and literary texts.