

# Syntax Alignment

**Definition:** Syntax means the arrangement of words and the order of grammatical elements in a sentence.

## Grade 6

**Students will be able to:**

- use simple sentences.
- identify the four types of sentences: declarative, imperative, exclamatory and interrogative.
- identify and use the terms subject/predicate, sentence fluency and word choice.
- recognize how punctuation impacts sentences.

## Grades 7-8

**Students will be able to:**

- identify sentence structure (subject/predicate).
- identify dependent and independent clauses.
- recognize and begin to use simple, compound, complex and compound/complex sentences.
- recognize the importance of varying sentence beginnings; begin implementing it in their own writing.
- use strategies for understanding sentence fluency (e.g., the Sentence Opening Sheet: SOS).

## Grades 9-10

**Students will be able to:**

- identify and use a variety of sentence structures (e.g., simple, compound, complex) and sentence lengths in their writing.
- recognize author's syntactical choices in writing and how they contribute to and emphasize meaning (e.g., the Style and Syntax Analysis Worksheet)
- recognize the connection between fluency and syntax.

## Grades 11-12

**Students will be able to:**

- use a variety of syntactical structures (e.g., simple sentences, compound sentences, intentional fragments, rhetorical questions, repetition, active/passive voice, parallel structure) in their writing.
- analyze authors' syntactical choices/strategies in their writing and how these choices contribute to and emphasize meaning.
- use a variety of sentence lengths in their writing to affect meaning.
- make informed punctuation choices to shape meaning in their writing.