

Meeting the Standard in Pennsylvania

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GRADE THREE

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1.1.3. Learning to Read Independently C.	Use knowledge of phonics, word analysis (e.g., root words, prefixes, and suffixes), syllabication, picture and context clues to decode and understand new words during reading.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> features word root paragraphs that introduce students to Greek or Latin roots to aid understanding of unfamiliar words, and includes separate entries for common prefixes and suffixes.
1.1.3. Learning to Read Independently E.	Acquire a reading vocabulary by identifying and correctly using words (e.g., antonyms, synonyms, categories of words). Use a dictionary when appropriate.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> introduces synonyms, antonyms, fun facts, word play, and word histories to help develop language skills. Example sentences help students use words correctly. <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> , written especially for grades 3–5, is a young student's first "real" dictionary, providing the basic features of a dictionary along with special features such as synonym paragraphs that explain differences in meaning between closely related words.
1.1.3. Learning to Read Independently H.	Read a variety of genres and types of text.	Entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> include nearly 1,300 quotations from classic and contemporary children's literature to encourage interest in reading. A list of quoted works can be used by students, parents, and teachers as a source of recommended books.
1.2.3. Reading Critically in All Content Areas B.	Use electronic media for research.	Students with access to the Web can look words up in the free student dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com).
1.5.3. Quality of Writing D.	Use descriptive words and action verbs.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> can inspire young writers with descriptive words, action verbs, synonym lists, and guidance for more precise vocabulary choices.
1.5.3. Quality of Writing F.	Spell common, frequently used words correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> includes lists of frequently used words to help students master their spelling. More than 36,000 entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> help students spell the words they use correctly.
	Use capital letters correctly (first word in sentences, proper nouns, pronoun "I").	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes "A Guide for Writers" section covering capitalization and punctuation rules, with examples.
	Punctuate correctly (periods, exclamation points, question marks, commas in a series).	
	Use nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and conjunctions properly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> provides thousands of usage examples within entries in grade-level-appropriate language to help students use words correctly. "Headscratchers" and "Hints" help students further understand confusing usage.

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GRADE THREE, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1.6.3. Speaking and Listening C.	Pronounce most words correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> gives students guidance for correct pronunciations with its simplified pronunciation symbols that are explained in an easy-to-read section at the front of the book and presented in a key on every two-page spread. <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) offers audio pronunciations with its free student dictionary.
1.7.3. Characteristics and Functions of the English Language A.	Identify words from other languages that are commonly used English words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> has 250 word history paragraphs that briefly describe how words from other languages entered English.
1.8.3. Research B.	Select sources (e.g., dictionaries, encyclopedias, interviews to write a family history, observations, electronic media).	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> , enhanced with 900 colorful illustrations, photographs, diagrams, and maps, provides help with spelling, meaning, and usage of words. It includes word histories, synonym paragraphs, word root paragraphs, and sections on signs and symbols and geographical names. Students with access to the Web can look words up in the free student dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com).
	Use tables of contents, key words, and guide words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes a "Using Your Dictionary" section that explains the dictionary's features, accompanied by an easy-to-follow key. <i>Merriam-Webster's How to Use Your Dictionary</i> is a comprehensive guide to all the features and richness of the dictionary, where students learn dictionary skills through games, puzzles, and quizzes.

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GRADE FIVE

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1.1.5. Learning to Read Independently C.	Use knowledge of phonics, syllabication, prefixes, suffixes, the dictionary, or context clues to decode and understand new words during reading. Use these words accurately in writing and speaking.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> , written especially for grades 3–5, provides the definitions students need to help them understand the words encountered when reading. <i>Merriam-Webster's How to Use Your Dictionary</i> includes vocabulary-building exercises that introduce students to a variety of word-decoding strategies. A list of prefixes and suffixes and their meanings in <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> can help students decode words.
1.1.5. Learning to Read Independently E.	Acquire a reading vocabulary by correctly identifying and using words (e.g., synonyms, homophones, homographs, words with roots, suffixes, prefixes). Use a dictionary or related reference.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> is a 36,000-word dictionary designed for students in grades 3–5. Word root paragraphs scattered throughout introduce students to Greek or Latin roots to aid understanding of unfamiliar words. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> has nearly 70,000 words and is designed for students in grades 6–8. Both dictionaries feature synonym paragraphs that explain differences between closely related words to help students understand them correctly. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> has a list of common Greek and Latin roots and their meanings, as well as a list of prefixes and suffixes. <i>Merriam-Webster's How to Use Your Dictionary</i> is a comprehensive, easy-to-read guide that helps students get the most out of their dictionaries and thesauruses.
1.2.5. Reading Critically in All Content Areas B.	Use a variety of media (e.g., computerized card catalogs, encyclopedias) for research.	Students with access to the Web can look words up in the free student dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com).
1.4.5. Types of Writing A.	Use literary devices [as named in Standard 1.3.5.C. (rhyme, rhythm, meter, alliteration, personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole)].	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> include entries and examples for literary terms. Students writing poetry can use <i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> with its alphabetical listing of rhyming sounds.
1.5.5. Quality of Writing D.	Use precise language including adjectives, adverbs, action verbs, and specific details that convey the writer's meaning.	Synonym paragraphs in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> help students choose words with precision. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> offers example sentences for every synonym to help students use adjectives, adverbs, and verbs effectively. <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> integrates thesaurus entries with dictionary entries to help guide word choice. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Thesaurus</i> are handy sources for synonyms, antonyms, and related words.

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GRADE FIVE, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1.5.5. Quality of Writing F.	Spell common, frequently used words correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> help students find correct spellings.
	Use capital letters correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> have chapters on the rules of capitalization and punctuation.
	Punctuate correctly (periods, exclamation points, question marks, commas, quotation marks, apostrophes).	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes "A Guide for Writers" section with guidelines for using capitals and punctuation marks, and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes "A Handbook of Style" section that covers the same topics in more depth.
	Use nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections properly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> contains articles that address difficult usage and grammar issues for all parts of speech. <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> offers nearly 12,000 usage examples within entries in grade-level-appropriate language to help students use words correctly. "Headscratchers" and "Hints" help students further understand confusing words and give language tips. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> includes a section with 200 frequently confused words (such as the verb <i>affect</i> and the noun <i>effect</i>).
1.6.5. Speaking and Listening C.	Pronounce words correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> give students guidance to correct pronunciations with pronunciation symbols that are explained at the front of the book and presented in a key on every two-page spread. <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) offers audio pronunciations with its free student dictionary.
1.7.5. Characteristics and Functions of the English Language A.	Identify words from other languages that are commonly used English words. Use a dictionary to find the origins and meanings of these words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> has 250 word history paragraphs that briefly describe how words from other languages entered English. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> has expanded word history information, along with concise etymologies for some 3,000 entries.
1.7.5. Characteristics and Functions of the English Language B.	Identify differences in formal and informal speech (e.g., dialect, slang, jargon).	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> identifies words as regional, slang, or nonstandard where appropriate with usage labels.
1.7.5. Characteristics and Functions of the English Language C.	Identify word meanings that have changed over time (e.g., <i>cool</i> , <i>mouse</i>).	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> are up-to date with words from today's world. Definitions at entries are in historical order (oldest to most recent), so students can see how words have changed meaning over time.

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GRADE FIVE, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1.8.5. Research B.	Select appropriate sources (e.g., dictionaries, encyclopedias, other reference materials, interviews, observations, computer databases).	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> is designed for students in grades 3–5. It offers help with spelling, meaning, and usage of words; in addition, it includes word histories, synonym paragraphs, word root paragraphs, and sections on signs and symbols and geographical names. Advanced students may want to use <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> , a nearly 70,000-word dictionary designed for middle-school students.
	Use tables of contents, indices, key words, cross-references, and appendices.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes a "Using Your Dictionary" section that explains the dictionary's features, such as synonymous cross-references. <i>Merriam-Webster's How to Use Your Dictionary</i> is a more comprehensive guide to the features and richness of the dictionary, where students learn dictionary skills through games, puzzles, and quizzes.
1.8.5. Research C.	Credit sources using a structured format (e.g., author, title).	<i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> can provide students with the basics of writing a list of sources with its section on bibliographies and its guidance with the rules of capitalization.

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GRADE EIGHT

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1.1.8. Learning to Read Independently C.	Use knowledge of root words as well as context clues and glossaries to understand specialized vocabulary in the content areas during reading. Use these words accurately in speaking and writing.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> , written especially for students in grades 6–8, features new words from fields such as science, technology, and health to help students understand the words they encounter when reading. <i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> introduces students to 200 of the most productive Greek and Latin roots, to help determine meanings of many terms. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> has a handy list of common Greek and Latin roots and their meanings.
1.1.8. Learning to Read Independently E.	Expand a reading vocabulary by identifying and correctly using idioms and words with literal and figurative meanings. Use a dictionary or related reference.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> has entries and meanings for hundreds of expressions and idioms. <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , an 85,000-word dictionary designed for high school students, has even more.
1.4.8. Types of Writing A.	Write poems, plays, and multi-paragraph stories. Include detailed descriptions of people, places, and things.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's School Thesaurus</i> , used in conjunction with <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , can help students find descriptive words to enhance their writing. <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> integrates thesaurus entries with dictionary entries to assist in word choice. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Thesaurus</i> are handy sources of synonyms, antonyms, and related words.
	Write poems, plays, and multi-paragraph stories. Use literary devices [as named in Standard 1.3.8.C. (rhyme, rhythm, meter, alliteration, personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, allusion)].	Students writing poetry may appreciate using the alphabetical listings of rhyming sounds in <i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Rhyming Dictionary</i> .
1.5.8. Quality of Writing D.	Use tone and voice through the use of precise language.	Definitions in <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> are constructed to convey a clear understanding of the precise meanings of words. In addition, both dictionaries feature synonym paragraphs that explain slight differences in meaning between closely related words to help students choose words with precision. <i>The Merriam-Webster Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Synonyms</i> provide additional explanations that help students distinguish between close synonyms, with examples of their use.

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GRADE EIGHT, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1.5.8. Quality of Writing F.	Spell common, frequently used words correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> help students find correct spellings. <i>Webster's Instant Word Guide</i> shows spelling and end-of-line divisions for 35,000 words and includes notes to help distinguish among confusable words.
	Use capital letters correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> , and <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> have chapters on the rules of capitalization and punctuation. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> include A Handbook of Style section with guidelines for capitalization and punctuation.
	Punctuate correctly (periods, exclamation points, question marks, commas, quotation marks, apostrophes, colons, semicolons, parentheses).	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> include A Handbook of Style section with guidelines for capitalization and punctuation.
	Use nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections properly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> contains articles that deal with difficult usage and grammar issues for all parts of speech. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> offers more than 20,000 usage examples within entries in grade-level-appropriate language to help students use words correctly. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> includes a section with 200 frequently confused words).
1.6.8. Speaking and Listening C.	Pronounce words correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> give students guidance to correct pronunciations with pronunciation symbols that are explained at the front of the book and presented in a key on every two-page spread. The free student dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) offers audio pronunciations.
1.7.8. Characteristics and Functions of the English Language A.	Describe the origins and meanings of common, learned, and foreign words used frequently in the English language (e.g., <i>carte blanche</i> , <i>faux pas</i>).	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> has nearly 300 word history paragraphs that briefly describe how words from other languages entered English; in addition, it gives concise etymologies for some 3,000 entries. <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> offers nearly 19,000 etymologies.

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GRADE EIGHT, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1.7.8. Characteristics and Functions of the English Language C.	Identify new words that have been added to the English language over time.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> cover words from today's world, so students can find new words from a variety of fields. Definitions in both dictionaries are given in historical order (oldest to most recent) so students can easily identify newer meanings of words.
1.8.8. Research B.	Select essential sources (e.g., dictionaries, encyclopedias, other reference materials, interviews, observations, computer databases).	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> is designed for students in grades 6–8. It provides help with spelling, meaning, and word usage; it also includes word histories, synonym paragraphs, and sections on abbreviations, signs and symbols, U.S. presidents, and geographical names. More advanced students may want to use <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , an 85,000-word dictionary designed for high-school students, featuring slightly more advanced vocabulary.
	Use tables of contents, indices, key words, cross-references, and appendices.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes a Using Your Dictionary section that explains the dictionary's features, including cross-references.
1.8.8. Research C.	Give precise, formal credit for others' ideas, images, or information using a standard method of documentation.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> have sections on bibliographies with the basics of citing sources. <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> has a more detailed chapter on footnotes, endnotes, parenthetical references, and bibliographies with information on citing materials, including non-print, unpublished, and online sources.

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GRADE ELEVEN

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1.1.11. Learning to Read Independently C.	Use knowledge of root words and words from literary works to recognize and understand the meaning of new words during reading. Use these words accurately in speaking and writing.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> introduces students to 200 of the most productive Greek and Latin roots, which help determine meanings of many terms. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> has a handy list of common Greek and Latin roots and their meanings.
1.1.11. Learning to Read Independently E.	Establish a reading vocabulary by identifying and correctly using new words acquired through the study of their relationships with other words. Use a dictionary or related reference.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , written especially for students in grades 9-11, provides definitions for the words students encounter. <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary</i> is a 165,000-word dictionary designed to support college-bound high-school students as they read a variety of texts. <i>Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged</i> includes nearly 500,000 entries and is designed to support the widest range of reading. <i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> introduces students to hundreds of words, with entries organized by their Greek and Latin roots.
1.1.11. Learning to Read Independently F.	Understand the meaning of and apply key vocabulary across the various subject areas.	
1.1.11. Learning to Read Independently H.	Demonstrate fluency and comprehension in reading. Use appropriate rhythm, flow, meter, and pronunciation.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> give students guidance to correct pronunciations with pronunciation symbols that are explained at the front of the book and presented in a key on every two-page spread. In addition, the free dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster OnLine</i> (Merriam-Webster.com) offers audio pronunciations.
1.4.11. Types of Writing A.	Write short stories, poems, plays.	Students writing poetry will appreciate the alphabetical listing of rhyming sounds in <i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Rhyming Dictionary</i> .
1.5.11. Quality of Writing D.	Use precise language.	Definitions in <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> are constructed to convey a clear understanding of the precise meanings of words. In addition, both dictionaries feature synonym paragraphs that explain slight differences in meaning between closely related words. <i>Merriam-Webster's School Thesaurus</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus</i> help students find accurate, descriptive words to enhance their writing. <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> integrates thesaurus entries with dictionary entries to help with word choice. <i>The Merriam-Webster Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms</i> provides additional explanations with examples of use that help students distinguish between close synonyms.

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GRADE ELEVEN, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1.5.11. Quality of Writing F.	Spell all words correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary</i> help students with correct spelling. <i>Webster's Instant Word Guide</i> shows spelling and end-of-line divisions of 35,000 words and includes notes to help distinguish among confusable words.
	Use capital letters correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Handbook for Writers</i> have chapters on the rules of capitalization and punctuation.
	Punctuate correctly (periods, exclamation points, question marks, commas, quotation marks, apostrophes, colons, semicolons, parentheses, hyphens, brackets, ellipses).	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> include A Handbook of Style section with guidelines for capitalization and punctuation.
	Use nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections properly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> contains brief articles that address difficult usage and grammar issues for all parts of speech. <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> goes into greater detail with more articles. <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> give thousands of usage examples within entries to help students use words correctly. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> includes a section with 200 frequently confused word pairs (such as the verb <i>affect</i> and the noun <i>effect</i>).
1.7.11. Characteristics and Functions of the English Language A.	Describe the influence of historical events on the English language.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> features 200 word-history paragraphs that tell the story behind a word's adoption into English; in addition, it includes etymologies for nearly 20,000 words. <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> includes etymologies for nearly 40,000 words.
1.8.11. Research B.	Select sources appropriate to breadth and depth of the research (e.g., dictionaries, thesauruses, other reference materials, interviews, observations, computer databases).	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> is specially designed for students in grades 9–11. It provides help in spelling, meaning, usage, and origin of words, and it has additional information, including synonym paragraphs and sections on abbreviations, biographical names, geographical names, and signs and symbols. College-bound students may want to use the 165,000-word <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> , with its even more comprehensive information.
	Use tables of contents, indices, key words, cross-references, and appendices.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> includes a Using the Dictionary section that explains the dictionary's features, including synonymous cross-references and directional cross-references.
1.8.11. Research C.	Give precise, formal credit for others' ideas, images, or information using a standard method of documentation.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Handbook for Writers</i> have chapters on footnotes, endnotes, parenthetical references, and bibliographies with information on citing materials, including unpublished, non-print, and online sources.