## Essential Element, Linkage Levels, and Mini-Map
### ELA: Grade 8
### ELA.EE.W.8.2.D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade-Level Standard</th>
<th>DLM Essential Element</th>
<th>Linkage Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELA.W.8.2.d</td>
<td>Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic</td>
<td>ELA.EE.W.8.2.d</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**EMERGENT WRITING (EW.8):**
- **Initial Precursor:** When supplied with a member of a category, can determine if the member belongs in the category
- **Distal Precursor:** Using their categorical knowledge, can make generalizations about the category to novel instances of that category

**CONVENTIONAL WRITING (CW.8):**
- **Proximal Precursor:** Student is able to select domain-specific words to use for writing about a topic
- **Target:** Can include domain-specific vocabulary when writing an informative text
- **Successor:** Can use domain-specific vocabulary to strengthen claims in informative writing (student is both able to write claims at this stage and can appropriately make use of domain specific vocabulary to enhance claims)

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This EE is tested in an ELA writing testlet. Writing testlets are assessed at two levels: Emergent Writing and Conventional Writing. The initial and distal precursor nodes are assessed in the emergent writing testlet in Grade 8 with four other Essential Elements: EE.W.8.2.a, EE.W.8.2.b, EE.W.8.2.c, and EE.W.8.2.f. The proximal precursor, target and successor nodes are assessed in the conventional writing testlet in Grade 8 with four other Essential Elements: EE.W.8.2.a, EE.W.8.2.b, EE.W.8.2.c, and EE.W.8.2.f.

A diagram showing the relationship of nodes in the mini-map appears below.

**Key to map codes in upper right corner of node boxes:**
- IP Initial Precursor
- DP Distal Precursor
- PP Proximal Precursor
- T Target
- SP Supporting
- S Successor
- UN Untested
Use domain specific vocabulary related to the topic.