
College Prep: English

Course Description

The College Prep: English course is designed to prepare learners for post-secondary education by covering the essential components of a traditional 9-12 language-arts curriculum. Students will review material relating to word analysis, fluency, vocabulary development, reading comprehension, standard English conventions, the writing process, and different types of writing.

As students explore this course, they'll encounter many of the elements that keep a language "alive." They will accomplish this by reading and listening to recordings of several different types of writing, including short stories, speeches, poetry, novels, essays, drama, and research writing. Students also will learn the secrets of successful reading and skills to help them expand their vocabulary. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to competently apply the writing process to a wide variety of writing assignments and situations. Furthermore, they will master specific organizational and stylistic techniques used to skillfully communicate to readers.

Overview

Unit 1: Reading – Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

Lesson 1: Identify Literal and Figurative Meanings and Word Derivations

Lesson 2: Identify Denotative and Connotative Meanings and Interpretations

Unit 2: Reading – Comprehension

Lesson 1: Read Consumer Materials to Gain Meaning

Lesson 2: Analyze Workplace Documents

Lesson 3: Synthesize Materials on a Single Subject

Lesson 4: Extend Ideas from Expository Critical Sources

Lesson 5: Critique Logic in Functional Documents

Unit 3: Standard English Conventions

Lesson 1: Grammar: Parts of Speech

Lesson 2: Grammar: Sentence Elements

Lesson 3: Grammar: Phrases

Lesson 4: Grammar: The Clause

Lesson 5: Sentence Structures

Lesson 6: Levels and Conventions of Usage

Lesson 7: Mechanics

Unit 4: The Foundations of Writing

Lesson 1: Paragraphs

Lesson 2: Essays

Lesson 3: Prewriting

Lesson 4: Drafting

Lesson 5: Revising and Editing

Unit 5: Types of Writing

Lesson 1: Write a Biographical Narrative

Lesson 2: Write a Response to Literature

Lesson 3: Write an Expository Composition

Lesson 4: Write a Persuasive Composition

Lesson 5: Write a Business Letter

Lesson 6: Humorous Prose

Objectives

Students completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following skills:

Unit 1: Reading – Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

- Understand the impact of affixes, and use affixes to help interpret a word's meaning.
- Identify and use literal and figurative meanings of words.
- Understand the denotative and connotative meanings of words.
- Understand how authors choose words, and how these choices can affect the message.
- Critique the relationships between generalizations and supporting evidence.

Unit 2: Reading – Comprehension

- Identify and interact with common consumer documents.
- Know the rules for a good letter, compare functions of a report, and analyze how design affects meaning.
- Know that expository text can be informative or persuasive, but that it is always nonfiction.
- Connect and relate gathered information to other sources.
- Practice the five steps for better reading comprehension.
- Analyze the correct type of details against each criterion: authenticity, adequateness, and appropriateness.
- Distinguish between primary, secondary, and tertiary sources.
- Analyze how authors elaborate on their ideas to extend their meaning.
- Examine an explanation from a functional document, and understand how the sequence of information must be logical to prevent misunderstanding.

Unit 3: Standard English Conventions

- Demonstrate understanding of contractions, possessives, plurals, adjectives, adverbs, capitalization, punctuation, and simple sentences.
- Explain the difference between a simple sentence and a compound sentence, and identify their use in written text.
- Change simple sentences into compound sentences through the use of coordinating conjunctions, including “and,” “but,” “or,” “nor,” and “for.”
- Identify the basic elements of a sentence, as well as the five basic sentence patterns that can be used to create sentences.
- Explain each part of the five basic sentence patterns: S-V; S-V-DO; S-V-IO-DO; S-LV-PN; S-LV-PA.
- Identify standard English conventions associated with subject-verb agreement, including matters of singular and plural subjects, indefinite pronouns, proper verb-form choices, compound subjects, and collective nouns.
- Compose complete sentences using the five basic sentence patterns, and incorporate a variety of phrases to modify meaning, including prepositional phrases, verbal phrases, and appositives.
- Analyze a sentence for conjunctions that attach a dependent clause to an independent clause.
- Determine whether the subordinate clause of a complex sentence serves as an adverb or adjective modifier.

Unit 4: The Foundations of Writing

- Demonstrate an understanding of expository and narrative paragraphs, and write examples of each.
- Identify and correct errors in grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and formatting.
- Analyze persuasive paragraphs of argumentation for justification of a claim.
- Explain the difference between an informative expository essay and a persuasive expository essay.
- Identify the four common arrangement patterns for topics in an informative or persuasive expository essay, and explain their differences.
- Determine whether a compare/contrast pattern or an analysis pattern is best suited to achieve the intent of an expository essay.
- Develop main ideas through adequate supporting evidence, and make these ideas appropriate for your purpose (expository, narrative, descriptive, or argumentative).

- Incorporate precise diction, figurative language, and syntax that is appropriate for your audience, subject, purpose, and tone.

Unit 5: Types of Writing

- Articulate the connections between expressed purposes and the characteristics of each form of literature.
- Analyze how dialogue, set design, soliloquies, asides, and character foils function in dramatic literature.
- Interpret and evaluate the impact of subtleties, ambiguities, contradictions, ironies, and incongruities in a text.
- Demonstrate awareness of the author's use of stylistic devices, and the effects of these devices.
- Evaluate written text to determine its effectiveness by using a provided rubric or scoring guide.
- State a position and provide adequate convincing evidence in support of a main idea.
- Combine the rhetorical strategies of exposition, argumentation, narration, and description.

In addition, students will continue to develop the following general skills:

- Use the Internet to gain useful information.
- Develop a sense of class membership by using discussion groups and email to communicate with teacher and classmates.

Activities and Assessments

- **12 Writing Assignments** – Throughout the course, students will apply the skills and knowledge they have gained from the interactive content to twelve teacher-graded writing assignments.
- **2 Online Discussion Group Assignments** – Teacher-graded discussion group assignments will help students develop communication and writing skills.
- **25 Quizzes, 5 Unit Exams, and 1 Final Exam** – Numerous computer-graded lesson quizzes, unit exams, and one final exam will assess student competency throughout the course.