
GED Prep: Language Arts, Writing

Course Description

The GED Prep: Language Arts, Writing course covers the material necessary to prepare a student for the GED Language Arts, Writing exam. Upon successful completion of this course, students will understand the basics of usage and mechanics, style, and the steps of the writing process, and they will be able to competently apply both to writing essays and a number of other writing situations.

Students will explore several general approaches to presenting ideas in writing. They'll master specific organizational and stylistic techniques used to skillfully communicate to readers in a variety of writing situations. The course introduces students to several different types of writing: short stories, speeches, poetry, novels, essays, drama, and research writing. Through the activities and reading of excerpts from literary works and "everyday" writing, students will learn the secrets of successful reading and skills to help them expand their vocabulary.

Overview

Unit 1: Sentence Structure

- Lesson 1: Grammar: Sentence Elements
- Lesson 2: Grammar: Phrases
- Lesson 3: Grammar: The Clause
- Lesson 4: Sentence Structures

Unit 2: Organization

- Lesson 1: The Paragraph

Unit 3: Usage

- Lesson 1: Grammar: Parts of Speech
- Lesson 2: Levels and Conventions of Usage

Unit 4: Mechanics

- Lesson 1: Mechanics

Unit 5: Planning an Essay

- Lesson 1: The Writing Process: Prewriting
- Lesson 2: The Writing Process: Drafting

Unit 6: Organizing an Essay

- Lesson 1: Types of Essays

Unit 7: Writing an Essay

- Lesson 1: The Essay
- Lesson 2: Paragraph Construction
- Lesson 3: Arguments
- Lesson 4: Narratives

Unit 8: Evaluating and Revising an Essay

- Lesson 1: The Writing Process: Revision

Objectives

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

Unit 1: Sentence Structure

- Explain the differences between a simple sentence and a compound sentence, and identify their use in written text.

- Explain the differences between a compound sentence and a compound-complex sentence, and identify their use in written text.
- Explain when it is appropriate to use a semicolon between two sentences rather than combine them with a coordinating conjunction.
- Define the term "prepositional phrase" and explain how a prepositional phrase functions as an adjective or adverb modifier in the development of a sentence.
- Identify the five basic sentence patterns that can be used to create sentences and explain each part of the pattern: S-V; S-V-DO; S-V-IO-DO; S-LV-PN; S-LV-PA.
- Define the terms "infinitive" and "infinitive phrases" and explain how they function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs to lend variety to the development of a sentence.
- Identify "infinitives" and "infinitive phrases" in a sentence and explain whether they are used in a noun position or as an adjective or adverb in the sentence.
- Explain the differences between the subject part and the predicate part of a sentence, and identify the simple subject and the simple predicate (verb) in each part.
- Explain what is meant by the terms "compound subject" and "compound verb," and recognize their use in a sentence.
- Explain how a dependent clause can be subordinate to an independent clause by the use of a subordinating conjunction to function as an adverb modifier in a sentence.
- Identify several subordinating conjunctions commonly used to connect a dependent clause to an independent clause to function as an adverb.
- Identify the subordinating conjunctions commonly used to connect a dependent clause to an independent clause to function as an adjective modifier.
- Analyze a sentence for the inclusion of a conjunction that sets up the subordination of a dependent clause to an independent clause, and determine whether the subordinated clause serves as an adverb or adjective modifier to clarify the meaning of the independent clause.

Unit 2: Organization

- Identify and write the parts of a paragraph.
- Demonstrate understanding of and write expository and narrative paragraphs.
- Identify the types of evidence that can be used in the supporting sentences to develop a paragraph using the description mode of writing.
- Analyze paragraphs of description for depiction of a dominant image or impression through specific, concrete details about a person, place, object, event, or experience. Also of use are word imagery and a vantage point.
- Identify the basic intent and purpose of an argumentative paragraph.
- Identify the types of evidence that can be used in the supporting sentences to develop a paragraph using the argumentative mode of writing.
- Analyze paragraphs of argumentation for justification of a claim.

Unit 3: Usage

- Recognize and correct usage problems associated with subject-verb agreement in a sentence.
- Recognize and correct problems associated with personal pronoun usage in a given sentence.
- Identify all adverbs in a given sentence and explain how each functions as a modifier of a verb or other adverb.
- Recognize and correct problems of usage associated with pronoun-antecedent agreements in a given sentence.
- Recognize and correct problems of usage associated with correct adjective and adverb choices in a given sentence.

Unit 4: Mechanics

- Demonstrate understanding of contractions, possessives, plurals, capitalization, and sentence punctuation.
- Explain the term "mechanics" as it relates to writing skills.
- Identify useful techniques to check for punctuation needs.

Unit 5: Planning an Essay

- Explain the differences between an expository essay intending to inform and an expository essay intending to persuade.

- Identify the four common arrangement patterns best suited for the organization of topics in an informative or persuasive expository essay and explain their differences.
- Determine whether a compare/contrast pattern or an analysis pattern of organization is best suited for the development of an informative or persuasive expository essay.
- Explain why it is important to share what you have written with others, not only during the process of writing, but also when finished.
- Recognize and use different types of paragraphs, including narration, description, compare/contrast, chronological order, cause/effect, categories/division, and definition.
- Use graphic organizers to generate details about a topic to include in one or more paragraphs.
- Recognize reliable Internet information resources by using the 5 W's of website assessment.
- Modify and/or cite source material properly to avoid plagiarism.

Unit 6: Organizing an Essay

- Recognize that a narrative essay has all the conventions of a story.
- Conduct prewriting activities for a narrative essay using a graphic organizer.
- Discuss the types of expository essays.
- Conduct prewriting activities for an expository essay using a graphic organizer.
- Apply the eight steps of writing an expository essay.
- Describe the kinds of "hook" statements that can be used in a persuasive essay.
- Explain what an outline of a persuasive essay looks like and discuss several methods of concluding a persuasive essay.

Unit 7: Writing an Essay

- Identify the various kinds of supporting details and explanations that are needed in the body paragraphs of an informative expository essay to clarify the relationships between the evidence and the main points.
- Identify and explain the four basic steps in the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing.
- Develop the topic in an expository essay through the use of techniques such as definitions, classifications, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect.
- Explain how the topic sentence, supporting details, and concluding sentence fit together to form an interesting, focused paragraph.
- Analyze the opening imagery for a narrative.
- Recognize experiences and/or events within the introduction of a narrative.
- Explain the purposes of supporting details.

Unit 8: Evaluating and Revising an Essay

- Employ revision techniques for revising and editing drafts.
- Identify and correct errors in grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and formatting.
- Recognize and correct spelling, grammar, usage, and punctuation errors in your own writing and in the writings of others.

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

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

Activities and Assessments

- **7 Writing Assignments** – Throughout the course, students will apply skills learned from the course content and to seven teacher-graded writing assignments.
- **2 Online Discussion Group Assignments** – Teacher-graded discussion group assignments will develop students' communication and writing skills.
- **16 Quizzes, 8 Unit Exams, 1 Final Exam** – Numerous computer-graded lesson quizzes, unit exams, and one final exam will assess student competency throughout the course.