

Accuplacer Reading

Course Overview

Each unit in the Accuplacer Reading course aligns to one or more topics in the 2016 Accuplacer Test. This course focuses on reading strategies and vocabulary skills for literary, informational, and historical texts. In this course, you will find a variety of lessons and activities to enhance your knowledge of these strategies.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Evaluate subject, theme, tone, and mood in short stories.
- Investigate the development of characters and plot in short stories, examine their narration and point of view, and do a close reading of a fiction text.
- Analyze literal and figurative meanings and investigate the importance of sound in poetry.
- Evaluate common forms, structural elements, and conflict in poetry.
- Identify the characters and settings in novels, investigate their themes and symbols, and examine how novelists refer to other works to add meaning.
- Examine writing structures found in nonfiction texts, and closely read nonfiction texts.
- Examine narrative and persuasive essays, investigate techniques for evaluating arguments, and examine a speech about social change.
- Evaluate the functions and features of informational nonfiction texts, and examine main ideas in texts about identity.
- Analyze opinion, bias, persuasive techniques, arguments, claims, and purpose in informational texts.
- Analyze seminal American texts from the Revolutionary period, and determine the main ideas and points of view in Civil War texts.
- Analyze Civil War documents that contain arguments for and against slavery and the rhetoric in speeches from US history.

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs presentation.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Course Materials

- notebook
- pencils or ink pens
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Course Structure

Unit 1: Reading Fiction

Summary

In unit 1, you will explore the elements of fiction, including subject, theme, tone, mood, and character and plot development. You will study the use of narration and point of view and do a close reading of a fiction text.

Activity/Objective
Subject and Theme in Fiction <i>Evaluate subject and theme in short stories.</i>
Tone and Mood in Fiction <i>Analyze tone and mood in short stories.</i>
Character and Plot Development in Fiction <i>Investigate the development of characters and plot in short stories.</i>
Narrative Techniques in Fiction <i>Examine narration and point of view in short stories.</i>
Fiction: Doing a Close Reading <i>Explore how to do a close reading of a fiction text.</i>

Unit 2: Reading Poetry

Summary

This unit introduces you to the elements of poetry, including structure, sound patterns, and figurative language. You will analyze literal and figurative meanings, the importance of sound, conflict, and common forms and structural elements in poetry.

Activity/Objective
Elements of Poetry <i>Explore elements of poetry, including structure, sound patterns, and figurative language.</i>

Activity/Objective
Discovering Meaning in Poetry <i>Analyze literal and figurative meaning in poetry.</i>
Hearing Sound in Poetry <i>Investigate the importance of sound in poetry.</i>
Crafting Structure in Poetry <i>Evaluate common forms and structural elements found in poetry.</i>
Conflict in Poetry <i>Identify and examine conflict in poetry.</i>

Unit 3: Analyzing Novels

Summary

The focus of this unit is novels. You will identify characters and settings, explore how novelists add meaning by referencing other pieces of literature, examine key conflicts, and investigate themes and symbols in novels.

Activity/Objective
Characters and Setting In Novels <i>Identify the characters and setting in novels.</i>
How Novelists Reference Other Works <i>Explore how novelists add meaning to their works by referencing other pieces of literature.</i>
Key Conflicts in Novels <i>Examine key conflicts in novels.</i>
Themes and Symbols in Novels <i>Investigate themes and symbolism in novels.</i>

Unit 4: Reading Nonfiction

Summary

In this unit, you will explore the writing structures used in informational texts and do a close reading of a nonfiction text. You will study the characteristics and purposes of narrative and persuasive essays and investigate techniques for evaluating arguments in essays. Finally, you will investigate examples of cause and effect in literary nonfiction.

Activity/Objective
Creating Structure in Nonfiction <i>Examine various writing structures found in informational texts.</i>
Nonfiction: Doing a Close Reading <i>Explore how to do a close reading of a nonfiction text.</i>

Activity/Objective
Reading Narrative and Persuasive Essays <i>Examine narrative and persuasive essays to determine their characteristics and purpose.</i>
Evaluating Arguments <i>Investigate techniques for evaluating arguments in essays.</i>
Speaking about Change <i>Examine a speech about social change.</i>
Exploring Cause and Effect <i>Investigate examples of cause and effect in literary nonfiction.</i>

Unit 5: Reading Informational Texts

Summary

In unit 5, you will evaluate the function and features of informational texts. You will examine the main idea in texts about identity and analyze opinion, bias, persuasive techniques, arguments, and claims in informational texts. Finally, you will identify and investigate purpose in these texts.

Activity/Objective
Introduction to Informational Texts <i>Evaluate the function and features of informational texts.</i>
Defining Identity <i>Examine the main idea through the use of informational texts about identity.</i>
Opinion in Informational Texts <i>Analyze opinion, bias, and persuasive techniques in informational texts.</i>
Analyzing Differences in Opinion <i>Evaluate arguments and claims in informational texts.</i>
Purpose in Informational Texts <i>Identify and investigate purpose in informational texts.</i>

Unit 6: Reading Historical Texts

Summary

In unit 6, you will analyze seminal American texts from the Revolutionary period and determine the main idea and point of view in Civil War texts. You will analyze Civil War documents that contain arguments for and against slavery. At the end of the unit, you will analyze the rhetoric in speeches from US history.

Activity/Objective
The Voice of a New Nation <i>Analyze seminal American texts from the Revolutionary period.</i>

Activity/Objective
The Civil War: Understanding the Conflict <i>Determine the main idea and point of view in Civil War texts.</i>
Arguments About Slavery <i>Analyze Civil War documents that contain arguments for and against slavery.</i>
Analyzing Historic Speeches <i>Analyze the rhetoric in speeches from US history.</i>