

Preparation for the GED® Test - RLA

Course Overview

The Preparation for the GED® Test Courses were developed by aligning Plato Courseware with the strands and topics that are assessed on the 2016 GED® Test. Each unit aligns to one or more strands within the 2016 GED® Test and the modules within each unit target the individual indicators on the test. The 2016 GED® Test for Reading Language Arts is the study of different reading and writing strategies. In this course, you will find a variety of lessons and activities to improve your knowledge of these strategies.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will:

- Explore different reading strategies for literature and informational text
- Understand how to summarize, find main ideas as well as details in both literary and informational text
- Analyze arguments in informational text
- Analyze and evaluate persuasive essays
- Understand the concept of thesis statements
- Explore how to evaluate and outline information, write strong introductions and strong conclusions
- Understand how to write, support, and prove arguments
- Explore different grammatical conventions and correct usage of language
- Understand how to revise and edit writing

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 & 2: Reading

Summary

These two units focus on the skills required for reading literature and informational text. Students will learn to summarize, find the main idea, and find supporting details within a variety of texts. These units also include lessons that explain how to find the theme, understand cause and effect, and differentiate facts and opinions in texts. Students will specifically explore how to evaluate persuasive essays by analyzing components such as paragraph development, organization, tone, and order and structure of sentences. Students will also compare different texts to analyze the arguments presented. Students will gain an understanding of how to use prior knowledge and context clues to improve comprehension.

Unit 3: Writing

Summary

This unit focuses on skills required for effective writing. Students will learn how to evaluate information and create a thesis statement and an outline. This unit also explores how to write strong introductions and strong conclusions. This unit provides an understanding on writing well supported arguments and proving these arguments with the right evidence. Students will conclude this unit with information on writing for tests.

Unit 4 & 5: Language Conventions and Usage

Summary

These two units focus on grammatical conventions and correct usage of the English language. Students are provided with instruction and practice on subject-verb agreement and correct pronoun usage in different scenarios. These units also explore how to recognize and correct misplaced modifiers, awkward sentence structure, and incorrect sentence fragments. Students also learn how to correctly use verb phrases, subordinate clauses, and transitional devices. Students also learn about correct punctuation and capitalization. The concluding part of the unit includes information on revising and editing writing using the language conventions and usage learnt in the unit.