PLATO COURSEWARE

Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Reading, Part 1

Course Overview

The development of the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Praxis CASE) Preparation Courses aligns Plato Courseware with the strands and topics assessed in the 2014 Praxis CASE Test. Each unit aligns with one or more strands within the 2014 Praxis CASE Test and the modules within each unit target the essential concepts of the Common Core State Standards as assessed in the Praxis CASE Test for Language Arts—Reading. This course focuses on the study of different reading strategies and vocabulary skills for literary texts. 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 to make inferences from a narrative and expository text.
- Explore different strategies for answering questions in a standardized test.
- Understand how to read between the lines in a text.
- Identify supporting details and main ideas from a passage.
- Summarize and recognize contextual information from a literary passage.
- Identify plot and different methods of characterization.
- Analyze how to support arguments with germane and sufficient evidence.
- Explore the use of context to determine the meanings of words and phrases as well as the use of precise vocabulary while writing and speaking.
- Examine the variety of tones created by the author and learn to recognize the implied meaning from a lesson.
- Understand how to develop and organize a paragraph and how to operate transitional devices in paragraphs.
- Analyze cause and effect relationships and the use of compare/contrast and problem/solution structures to organize writing.
- Analyze the use of chronological and logical order in text.
- Understand the logical relationships within the text.
- Explore the strategies needed for checking for a consistent point of view in your writing and be able to practice labeling more evidence.
- Analyze the use of indirect evidence and graphics to find and understand information from expository text.

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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 and 3: Key Ideas and Details

Summary
Unit 1 focuses on how to read and interpret text. It explores different strategies to answer questions based on a literary passage. You will use strategies to make inferences from narrative and expository text. In the latter section of the unit, you will be able to read between the lines in stories and any given information.

Unit 2 focuses on how to identify the main idea of a passage. The unit also explores strategies to identify the stated and unstated details that support the main idea from the passage. Through practice, you will be able to summarize stories and information.

Unit 3 helps you learn to recognize contextual information and themes from a literary passage. In this unit, you will also learn to understand a plot and the events of a story as well as ways to identify different methods of characterization. In the concluding part of the unit, you will learn to support arguments with germane and sufficient evidence.

Unit 4, 5, and 6: Craft, Structure, and Language Skills
Summary

Unit 4 helps you to determine the meanings of words and phrases, and ways to use precise vocabulary while writing and speaking. You will be able to recognize a variety of tones used by the author as well as recognize the implied meaning or moral of a lesson.

Unit 5 helps you to identify a paragraph as well as ways to develop and organize a paragraph. You will be able to recognize sentences that do not connect logically and will be able to use effective sequences and transitions to achieve coherence and meaning. You will learn to analyze cause and effect relationships and explore the use of compare/contrast and problem/solution structures to organize writing. You will analyze the use of chronological and logical order in a text. You will also be able to identify details implied by cause and effect relationships and by illustrations and examples.

Unit 6 focuses on identifying shifts in points of view in your writing and strategies to maintain a consistent third-person point of view. Through the practice session, you will learn to label evidence and reason out arguments for which you have no direct evidence. In the latter part of the unit, you will learn to use graphics to understand and find information from expository text.