Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Reading Part 2

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 informational 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:

- Learn how to use context and prefix clues to determine the meanings of unknown words
- Analyze different strategies to identify the difference between opinions and facts and pinpoint whether various claims are questionable or believable in nature.
- Explore the use of idioms as well as figurative language used in text.
- Learn strategies to improve and expand your vocabulary.
- Explore how to read text that includes graphics and use visual aids to summarize and illustrate complicated concepts.
- Understand techniques of persuasive writing and use them to write a persuasive essay.
- Understand how to draw conclusions and evaluate information.
- Analyze how to predict the text and identify what is similar and different in the text.
- Use prior knowledge to analyze narrative and expository text.

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: Craft, Structure, and Language Skills

Summary
Unit 1 focuses on the use of context clues and prefixes to determine the meaning of unknown words. In this unit, you will learn to identify and separate facts from opinions and will be able to interpret whether claims are questionable or believable.

Unit 2 focuses on figurative language and its correct usage. You will also explore idioms.

Unit 3 focuses on vocabulary building strategies that include some activities for students to add new words to their vocabulary.

Unit 4: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Summary
Unit 4 explains how to read texts that include graphics. You will also learn how to use visual aids to summarize data and illustrate complicated concepts. You will then learn the different types of persuasive writing, which will help you to recognize different types of appeals and faulty reasoning. The unit also describes how to draw conclusions and tell if a source is reliable and has a philosophical bias.

Additionally, you will be able to predict the context and interpret what is different and similar as you learn to read. In the latter part of the unit, you will learn to have a better understanding narrative and expository text using prior knowledge.