

# Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Writing Part 2

## Course Overview

The development of 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—Writing. This course focuses on the study of different 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:

- Learn to identify adjectives and adverbs in a sentence.
- Explore singular and plural nouns, pronoun and antecedent agreement, and usage of pronouns correctly.
- Learn how to recognize verbs and identify whether the verb agrees in number with the subject of a sentence.
- Identify phrases and clauses in a sentence.
- Identify parallel structure within sentences.
- Learn to identify and locate a misplaced modifier.
- Understand how to combine sentences and correctly use coordinating conjunctions to enhance writing.
- Understand how to identify, correct, and fix sentence fragments and run-on sentences.
- Learn how to use confusing words and how to choose words carefully.
- Understand the difference between similar sounding words.
- Learn how to conduct a self-review by using checklists to proofread.
- Understand the basics of punctuation and capitalization.
- Learn how to use commas, colons, and semicolons.
- Understand how to form possessives and when to use apostrophes with compound possessives.
- Identify the elements in the research process.
- Learn how to use citations to credit ideas taken from sources.
- Prepare effective research questions and conduct thorough research for your paper.

## 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 1–4: Language Skills

#### Summary

Unit 1 introduces the identification of adjectives and adverbs. You will learn to identify singular and plural nouns. You will also learn how to identify the correct form of a pronoun based on its function in a sentence. The unit also tells you how to identify verbs that agree in number with the subject of a sentence. In the latter part of the unit, you will study verb tenses and learn how to choose the correct tense in your sentences.

Unit 2 focuses on identifying phrases and clauses in sentences. In this unit, you will learn how to identify and locate misplaced modifiers and study coordinating conjunctions. You will identify, correct, and fix sentence fragments. You will learn to identify and correct run-on sentences as well as parallel structure within sentences. In the latter part of the unit, you will match the parts of sentences that follow pairs of linking words.

Unit 3 focuses on how to replace repeated words and phrases with good substitute words. You will learn to differentiate between similar sounding words and learn to correctly use confusing words such as principal/principle, affect/effect, accept/except, lose/loose. You will also learn how to proofread written works using checklists.

Unit 4 begins with the introduction of capitalization. Further in the unit, you will learn the basics of punctuation, including periods, exclamation points, question marks, colons, semicolons, and commas. You will learn to form possessives and use apostrophes with compound possessives.

## Unit 5: Research Skills

### Summary

In Unit 5, you will learn how to identify common elements of the research process. You will learn how to provide citations and give credit to your sources. Further, in the lesson, you will learn how to write good research questions. In the latter part of the unit, you will learn how to expand your papers with more information without deviating from the topic of your paper.