SAT Reading

Course Overview

The SAT Reading course was developed by aligning Plato Courseware with the topics assessed on the 2016 SAT. Each unit aligns to one or more topics within the 2016 SAT. This course focuses on the study of different reading strategies and vocabulary skills for fictional, informational, and persuasive 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:

- Understand how to do a close reading of a fiction text and explore its structure and basic characteristics.
- Explore ways to evaluate subject and theme within short stories, and analyze their tone and mood.
- Investigate the development of characters and plot as well as the use of symbolism in short stories, and examine their narration and point of view.
- Evaluate common forms and structural elements found in poetry, and explore theme and figurative language through poetry.
- Examine important literary features of drama.
- Understand how to do a close reading of a nonfiction text.
- Evaluate the function and features of informational nonfiction texts, examine their writing structures, and analyze opinion, bias, and persuasive techniques found in these texts.
- Examine how audience can influence an informational text, and explore ways to identify and investigate purpose in informational texts.
- Examine narrative and persuasive essays to determine their characteristics and purpose.
- Evaluate arguments and claims in informational texts, and investigate techniques for evaluating arguments in essays.
- Analyze the characteristics of public essays, and consider the function and form of speeches.
- Understand how to analyze the rhetoric in speeches from US history.
- Examine key elements of creating and delivering successful multimedia presentations.

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

Course Structure

Unit 1: Theme, Meaning, and Purpose in Fiction

Summary
In Unit 1, you'll learn to do a close reading of a fiction text and explore its structure and basic characteristics. Further, you will analyze the tone and mood in short stories and also evaluate their subjects and themes. You'll investigate the development of characters and plot, the use of symbolism, and the importance of narration and point of view in short stories. Additionally, you'll explore ways to evaluate common poetic forms and structural elements. You'll also explore theme and figurative language through poetry. In the latter part of this unit, you'll learn to examine important literary features of drama.

Unit 2: Theme, Meaning, and Purpose in Informational Texts

Summary
Unit 2 begins by explaining how to do a close reading of a nonfiction text. Here, you will evaluate the function and features of informational nonfiction texts and examine various writing structures found in these texts. In addition, you will analyze opinion, bias, and persuasive techniques in informational texts. Toward the end of this unit, you will learn to examine how audience can influence an informational text, and identify as well as investigate the purpose in these texts.

Unit 3: Rhetorical Techniques in Persuasive Texts

Summary
In Unit 3, you'll examine narrative and persuasive essays to determine their characteristics and purpose. Next, you'll evaluate arguments and claims in informational texts. You'll also analyze the characteristics of public essays and consider the function and form of speeches. This unit provides an understanding of how to analyze the rhetoric in speeches from US history. In the concluding part of this unit, you will investigate techniques for evaluating arguments in essays and examine the key elements of creating and delivering successful multimedia presentations.