Accuplacer Reading

Course Overview

The Accuplacer Courses were developed by aligning Plato Courseware with the content dimensions addressed on the Next-Generation Accuplacer tests. Each unit in the Accuplacer Reading course aligns to multiple content dimensions in the Accuplacer Reading Test. This course focuses on reading strategies and vocabulary skills for literary, informational, and historical texts. This course consists of six units that will help you to identify your reading and literacy strengths and weaknesses and to polish your reading skills. The first two units introduce you to the elements of fiction and poetry. The third unit discusses the basic characteristics of novels and explores conflicts in novels. The fourth unit focuses on nonfiction. It reviews writing structures in informational texts, discusses how to do a close reading of nonfiction text, and explores essays and speeches. The fifth unit examines the characteristics and purpose of informational text. The last unit analyzes historical American texts. The course’s tests will help you practice what you have learned.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you’ll be able to do the following:

• Identify subject and theme in short stories.
• Analyze tone and mood in short stories.
• Explore how to do a close reading of a fiction text.
• Explore elements of poetry, including structure, sound patterns, and figurative language.
• Analyze literal and figurative meaning in poetry.
• Identify the characters and setting in novels.
• Explore how novelists add meaning to their works by referencing other pieces of literature.
• Review various writing structures found in informational texts.
• Examine narrative and persuasive essays to determine their characteristics and purpose.
• Investigate techniques for evaluating arguments in essays.
• Examine a speech about social change.
• Evaluate the function and features of informational nonfiction texts.
• Analyze opinion, bias, and persuasive techniques in informational texts.
• Analyze seminal American texts from the Revolutionary period.
• Analyze the rhetoric in speeches from US history.

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following activities:
• Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
• Understand the basics of spreadsheet software, such as Microsoft Excel or Google Spreadsheets, but having prior computing experience is not necessary.
• 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 Student Orientation, found at the beginning of this course.

Course Materials

• notebook
• computer with internet connection and speakers or headphones
• Microsoft Word or equivalent
• Microsoft Excel or equivalent

Course Structure

Unit 1: Reading Fiction

Summary
In this unit, you’ll identify the subject and theme and analyze the tone and mood in short stories. You’ll also explore narration, and point of view in short stories. Lastly, you’ll learn to do a careful interpretation of a fiction text.

Unit 2: Reading Poetry

Summary
The second unit focusses on analyzing and interpreting poetry. You’ll begin with exploring the basic elements of poetry and analyzing the literal and figurative meaning in poetry. You'll then investigate the importance of sound in poetry. Lastly you'll evaluate common forms and structural elements in poetry.
Unit 3: Analyzing Novels

Summary
In the third unit, you will identify the characters and setting in novels. Then, you'll analyze how novelists quote other works in their writing. You'll also examine key conflicts, themes, and symbolism in novels.

Unit 4: Reading Nonfiction

Summary
In this unit, you'll explore various writing structures found in informational texts. You will also interpret narrative and persuasive essays as well as speeches.

Unit 5: Reading Informational Texts

Summary
In this unit, you will examine the function and features of informational nonfiction text. Later, you'll analyze informational texts for examples of opinion, bias and persuasive techniques and evaluate arguments in such texts. Finally, you'll explore claims in informational texts.

Unit 6: Reading Historical Texts

Summary
In the last unit, you'll analyze seminal American texts from the Revolutionary period. You'll determine the central idea in Civil War texts and analyze the Civil War documents that contain arguments related to states’ rights. Lastly, you'll analyze the rhetoric in American historic speeches.