

### Course Description:

This course introduces more advanced aspects of composition. For example, it examines the reading skills necessary to comprehend more complex nonfiction texts with a focus on close reading strategies. As you work through the course, you will read true accounts of experiences and events in autobiographies, personal narratives, and memoirs. You'll also explore journalism and other forms of communication as well as informational and job interviews. You will study persuasive arguments in historical and contemporary texts, and then analyze the use of rhetorical techniques by evaluating how well authors address opposing viewpoints and counterclaims.

You will also practice what you have learned by writing your own argumentation essay and literary analysis essay. You will conduct research to complete a project in which you examine the cultural, historical, and social contexts of texts as well as reference sources to determine whether aspects of a legend are based on fact. The intent of this course is to help you to continue to build your communication skills and enhance your ability to critically analyze written and spoken key ideas and arguments. The skills you will learn, such as the ability to research and to write effectively, will lead to success in both your academic and professional life; and this course provides the opportunity for you to practice and refine these skills.

### Course Objectives:

- Determine explicit and implicit meaning and make inferences in informational text.
- Determine central ideas and supporting details in informational text.
- Analyze development, organization, supporting evidence, word choices and meanings, ideas and claims, and viewpoints and purposes in informational text.
- Evaluate claims, arguments, and reasoning in argument texts and determine relevancy and sufficiency of evidence.
- Analyze seminal US documents.
- Compose informational and argument essays, selecting relevant and sufficient evidence and organizing content effectively.
- Correctly use the conventions of English grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling in different contexts to make effective choices for meaning or style.
- Determine the meanings of academic and domain-specific words and phrases.
- Participate in collaborative discussions and presentations while effectively integrating and presenting information from multiple sources.
- Read and comprehend grade-level informational text.
- Read and comprehend grade-level literature.
- Interpret and analyze the effect of word choices in informational and literary text.
- Conduct an interview by noting and evaluating the interviewee's words, answers, and evidence.
- Interpret and analyze how a subject is portrayed in multiple mediums.
- Analyze the historical and cultural context in folk literature.
- Make inferences using evidence in literary text.

### Required Materials:

In Course

### Course Overview:

At the beginning of each unit is a brief description of the intended learning outcomes. The following activities come after the introduction:

**Language Skill & Reading** – This activity has two parts. The first allows students to review and acquire new skills in the key grammar concepts of spelling, punctuation, and usage. During the second part, students are expected to read independently for 15 minutes.

**Vocabulary Words** – This activity introduces academic vocabulary to prepare students for learning new concepts in their courses. At the end of the course is a vocabulary exam.

**Lesson Content** – Lessons contain a variety of activities, including reading selections, videos, audio files, and practice activities. Most lesson content includes graded workbook questions.

**Project** – This assessment is graded by the instructor. Projects require students to apply their knowledge and writing capabilities to demonstrate they have mastered the lesson and unit content.

**Discussion Board** – This activity is graded by the instructor. The Discussion Board allows students to interact and communicate with classmates and the instructor about lesson content.

**Checkpoint** – This graded activity uses 10 questions to assess mastery of lesson objectives. The Checkpoint may be taken up to three times.

**Unit Exam** – At the end of the unit is an exam that uses 30 questions to assess mastery of unit objectives. It may be taken only once.

**Unit Objectives Review** – This activity reviews the information and content learned in each unit.

**Final Exam** – This exam is in the last lesson and consists of questions that reflect key concepts and information from course. Students may take the Final Exam only once.