

Course Description:

This course introduces you to more advanced aspects of language arts skills, including composition. You will learn skills for comprehending informational and argument texts, and you will study persuasive arguments in historical and contemporary texts. Analyzing the use of rhetorical techniques will help you evaluate how well authors address opposing viewpoints and counterclaims. In addition, you can practice what you have learned by writing an informational essay and an argument essay.

This course aims to help you build your communication skills and enhance your ability to critically evaluate ideas and arguments. The skills you will learn, such as researching and writing effectively, can lead to success in your academic and professional lives.

Course Objectives:

- Determine central ideas and supporting details in informational text.
- Identify and analyze organizational structures in informational text.
- Determine explicit and implicit meaning and make inferences in informational text.
- Analyze development, organization, supporting evidence, word choices and meanings, ideas and claims, and viewpoints and purposes in informational text.
- Recognize the use of figurative, connotative, and technical language, and its impact on tone in informational text.
- Describe author's purpose and perspective in informational text.
- Compare informational accounts in different mediums.
- Evaluate claims, arguments, and reasoning in argument texts and determine relevancy and sufficiency of evidence.
- Analyze US seminal documents and the rhetoric used in those documents.
- Read and comprehend grade-level informational text.
- Participate in collaborative discussions and presentations while effectively integrating and presenting information from multiple sources.
- 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.
- Compose informational and argument essays, selecting relevant and sufficient evidence and organizing content effectively.
- Describe word roots, parts of speech, and patterns of word change.
- Use context clues and understand word functions.
- Interpret connotation and word nuances.

- Use reference sources and style manuals to locate meanings and other information.
- Use spelling conventions to identify spelling errors.
- Use semicolons and colons correctly when writing

Required Materials:

- word-processing software
- Internet browser

Course Overview:

The course is made up of six units. Each unit has five lessons. Lessons present the material in many different ways so students can increase their comprehension. These ways include Unit Vocabulary, Language and Reading Skills, Writing Projects, Workbook and Checkpoint assessments, and Discussion Boards. Some activities are graded by the learning management software; others are graded by the instructor. Additional activities are not graded.