

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Essentials of Language Arts



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Essentials of Language Arts Course Overview

Essentials of Language Arts is a semester-length review of the fundamentals of reading informational and literary texts, and writing a variety of creative and expository compositions. This course is useful at the high school level for basic conceptual and skill remediation, and/or practice necessary to prepare for a state exam.

Upon successfully completing the course, the student should have mastered the following concepts and skills:

I. Informational Texts

- Recognize the elements and characteristics of different kinds of informational texts: expository, procedural, persuasive, and literary nonfiction.
- Navigate, interpret, and evaluate informational texts.
- Identify and analyze the author's purpose in a variety of informational texts.
- Understand and use the conventions of workplace documents and business writing.
- Distinguish and analyze claims in informational texts (main idea, topics, evidence, etc.).
- Use knowledge of literal and figurative language and context clues to determine the meaning of unknown words.
- Understand and analyze the organizational pattern of informational texts.
- Examine the use of visual elements that support written texts.
- Draw reasonable inferences from informational texts.
- Identify, analyze, and evaluate arguments.

II. Literary Texts

- Recognize the elements and characteristics of different literary genres: poetry, drama, and fiction.
- Recognize and analyze the structure of poetry, drama, and narrative prose.
- Draw inferences from explicit and implicit information.
- Identify and analyze elements of literary texts: plot, setting, characterization, theme.
- Identify and analyze literary devices: imagery, tone, point of view, flashback, foreshadowing, figurative language.
- Understand the influence of culture, history, and an author's background on diction, style, and elements of narrative fiction.

III. Writing

- Understand and apply the writing process.
- Recognize and compose a clear thesis statement.
- Recognize and evaluate organizational patterns for an essay.
- Identify and analyze evidence for relevance to a topic or argument.
- Understand and use evidence to support claims and arguments.
- Identify and select meaningful, descriptive, and expressive words.
- Recognize, use, and evaluate effective grammar, sentence construction, clause coordination, agreement, number, tense, word choice, mechanics, and conventions.
- Write a business letter.
- Write a literary analysis.

Essentials of Language Arts	Unit 1: Reading Informational Text	
	Assignments	
	1. Course Overview	8. Conclusions and Predictions
	2. Consumer Materials	9. Quiz 2: Understanding Informational Texts
	3. Workplace Documents	10. Evaluating a Consumer/Workplace Text
	4. Quiz 1: Navigating Information Texts	11. Evaluating an Argument or Position
	5. Main Idea	12. Quiz 3: Evaluating Informational Text
	6. Language Use	13. Writing Applications - Business Letter
	7. Organization	14. Test

Essentials of Language Arts	Unit 2: Literary Analysis	
	Assignments	
	1. Literary Genres	9. Narrator, Tone, and Point of View
	2. Nonfiction Genres	10. Drawing Conclusions
	3. Quiz 1: Literary Genres	11. Literary Structures in Drama
	4. The Plot	12. Literary Structures in Poetry
	5. Characterization	13. Literary Critique
	6. Theme	14. Quiz 3: Literary Analysis
	7. Quiz 2: Literary Analysis	15. Writing Applications - Response to Literature
	8. Literary Devices	16. Test

Essentials of Language Arts	Unit 3: Basics of Essay Writing	
	Assignments	
	1. Writing a Focused Essay	6. Types of Essays: Expository Essay
	2. Writing a Valid Essay	7. Types of Essays: Persuasive Essay
	3. Writing an Expressive Essay	8. Quiz 2: Types of Essays
	4. Quiz 1: Basics of Essay Writing	9. Test
	5. Types of Essays: Biographical Narrative	

Essentials of Language Arts	Unit 4: Effective Writing	
	Assignments	
	1. Connecting Ideas through Coordination	7. Using Modifiers Correctly
	2. Keeping Ideas Parallel	8. Quiz 2: Usage
	3. Connecting Ideas through Subordination	9. Choosing the Right Words
	4. Quiz 1: Sentence Structure	10. Correct Sentence Punctuation
	5. Using Verbs Correctly	11. Quiz 3: Writing Conventions
	6. Using Nouns and Pronouns Correctly	12. Test

	Unit 5: Final Exam	
	Assignments	
	1. Final Exam	2. Alternate Final Exam*

(*) Indicates alternative assignment