

ACT English

Course Overview

The ACT English Courses were developed by aligning Plato Courseware with the topics that are assessed on the 2016 ACT Test. Each unit aligns to one or more topics within the 2016 ACT English Test. This course focuses on rhetorical skills along with English language usage and mechanics. In this course, you will find a variety of lessons and activities to improve your knowledge of these strategies.

Course Goals

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

- Analyze literal and figurative language in poetry, and examine how to construct a main idea in academic writing.
- Understand how writers match tone to the audience, and develop the skills needed to present ideas to an audience.
- Develop skills necessary for different writing processes, and organize ideas.
- Identify and implement elements of speechwriting, and discuss the topic of change.
- Develop a writing strategy, and analyze how a topic is communicated through different types of media.
- Distinguish between conventionally good and bad writing by analyzing examples.
- Identify common mistakes in writing, and develop skills for writing persuasively.
- Explore the differences between expository, persuasive, and reflective essays, and identify and practice methods for writing, revising, and editing a paper.
- Examine the steps for completing the final draft of an essay, including editing and revising.
- Understand the importance of point of view in a story.
- Examine point of view and word choice and understand how they affect conflict in a novel.
- Analyze elements of internal conflict, and investigate the theme of change in literature.
- Determine prominent features of persuasive writing, and investigate techniques for evaluating arguments in essays.
- Analyze the impact of meter and punctuation in Emily Dickinson's poem "I'm Nobody! Who Are You?" and common features of plot development in fiction.
- Examine the theme of identity in literature.

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

Course Structure

Unit 1: Rhetorical Skills and Language

Summary

In Unit 1, you will analyze literal and figurative language in poetry and study how to form and develop a main idea in academic writing. You will also understand how writers modify the tone to fit their audience in informational texts and develop the skills needed to present ideas to an audience. In addition, you will develop skills for planning, organizing, drafting, and editing academic writing, and explore methods for organizing research information. You will identify and implement elements of speechwriting, and you will prepare as well as conduct a group discussion on the topic of change. Further, you will evaluate your current writing strategy and investigate other strategies to prepare for higher-level writing. Toward the end of this unit, you will analyze how to communicate about a topic through different types of media.

Unit 2: Grammar, Structure, and Organization in Writing

Summary

In Unit 2, you will first explore the traits of conventionally "good" and "bad" writing by analyzing examples. Later, you will explain common mistakes in college-level writing and develop skills for writing persuasively. You will explore the differences between expository, persuasive, and reflective essays. You will also identify and practice methods for writing, revising, and editing a paper. Then, you will examine the characteristics of persuasive writing and practice writing persuasively. This unit concludes by explaining the steps for completing the final draft of an essay, including editing and revising.

Unit 3: Style and Structure in Literature

Summary

In Unit 3, you will investigate the impact that point of view has on a story. You will also examine the point of view and word choice in a novel and understand how they affect the conflict within the novel. You will identify and examine conflict in fiction. In addition, you will analyze elements of internal conflict in literature and investigate the theme of change in literature. Then, you will determine prominent features of persuasive writing. This unit also includes lessons in which you will investigate techniques for evaluating arguments in essays and analyze the impact of meter and punctuation in Emily Dickinson's poem "I'm Nobody! Who Are You?" Finally, you will analyze common features of plot development in fiction and examine the theme of identity in literature.