

HiSET[®] Preparation

Language Arts-Reading, Part 2

Course Overview

The HiSET Preparation courses were developed by aligning Plato courseware with the strands and topics assessed in the 2016 HiSET test. Each unit aligns to one or more strands in the 2016 HiSET test, and the modules within each unit target the essential concepts of the Common Core State Standards as assessed in the HiSET Language Arts–Reading subtest. This course focuses on reading strategies and vocabulary skills for informational texts. The lessons and activities in this course will help you improve your knowledge of these strategies.

Course Goals

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

- Understand the features of nonfictional texts.
- Analyze different viewpoints of conflicts in informational texts.
- Write memoirs.
- Evaluate examples of famous diaries.
- Keep your own diary.
- Analyze persuasive techniques in informational texts.
- Understand the purpose of nonfictional text.
- Examine writing structures in informational texts.
- Understand rhetorical elements in persuasive essays.
- Evaluate arguments in essays.
- Understand the development of the American language.
- Evaluate historical texts.
- Analyze the cultural and historical significance of literature.
- Explain the influence of the civil rights movement on American literature.
- Create and deliver successful multimedia presentations.

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 and participate in discussion boards.

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

Course Structure

Unit 1: Comprehending Informational Texts

This unit focuses on understanding informational texts. The unit begins with a lesson in which you'll evaluate the function and features of nonfiction texts. Then you'll analyze opinions, biases, and persuasive techniques in informational texts. You'll investigate the purpose of informational texts, evaluate arguments, and study the influence that the audience can have on informational texts. At the end of this unit, you'll explore topics of social change in informational texts.

Unit 2: Analyzing and Interpreting Informational Texts

In this unit, you'll read nonfiction texts and examine writing structures in informational nonfiction texts. You'll analyze various viewpoints of conflicts in informational texts. You'll also learn about point of view in memoirs and write a short memoir. Later in the unit, you'll analyze examples of cause and effect in nonfiction text. Finally, you'll examine examples of famous diaries and practice keeping your own diary.

Unit 3: Informational Texts—Essays

In this unit, you'll examine narrative and persuasive essays and study the key rhetorical elements used in persuasive essays. You'll learn techniques for evaluating arguments in essays and explore the development of the American language. At the end of the unit, you'll evaluate how writers discuss personal change in informational texts.

Unit 4: Historical Texts

The focus of this unit is reading and analyzing historical texts. In this unit, you'll analyze the evolution of America's founding documents and the rhetoric in speeches from US history. You'll also study Civil War documents that contain arguments for and against slavery. In the last lesson, you'll determine the main idea and point of view in Civil War texts.

Unit 5: Historical Literature

In this unit, you'll analyze the cultural and historical significance of literature from the Revolutionary period. You'll also study seminal American texts from the same period. Later in the unit, you'll evaluate common themes in slave narratives and analyze the influence of civil rights movement on American literature.

Unit 6: Analyzing, Synthesizing, and Presenting Ideas

In this unit, you'll learn to develop research questions and evaluate resources. You'll also study methods for developing multimedia presentations and examine key elements of creating and delivering successful multimedia presentations.