

Syllabus

HiSET[®] Preparation Language Arts-Writing, Part 1

Course Overview

The HiSET Preparation courses were developed by aligning Plato courseware with the strands and topics assessed on 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 on the HiSET Language Arts–Writing subtest. This course focuses on effective writing strategies. 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:

- Explore the history and development of the English language.
- Differentiate between good and bad writing.
- Identify and explain basic concepts of English grammar.
- Understand the writing process.
- Plan, organize, write, and edit academic writing.
- Write essays that are free of plagiarism.
- Evaluate and build arguments.
- Identify the elements of persuasion, and write a persuasive argument or essay.
- Evaluate common grammatical mistakes.

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: Introduction to the English Language

This unit focuses on the history and development of the English language. You'll begin by studying the stages in the development of the English language and the development of the "American language." Later in the unit, you'll analyze writing samples as you learn to differentiate between good and bad writing. Next, you'll learn about common grammatical mistakes in college-level writing, the correct usage of apostrophes, and contractions and their usage.

Unit 2: Introduction to the Writing Process

In this unit, you'll learn to research effectively and develop the skills required for planning, organizing, and writing, and editing academic writing. You'll evaluate your writing skills and learn to write an essay that's free of plagiarism. The unit ends with a student-led group discussion on the topic of change.

Unit 3: Evaluating and Building Arguments

The unit focuses on persuasive writing. You'll begin by identifying the elements and characteristics of persuasion. You'll then develop the skills needed to write persuasively. In the latter part of this unit, you'll write persuasively about poetry and deliver a persuasive speech.

Unit 4: Writing Essays

In this unit, you'll evaluate grammatical mistakes and investigate strategies for higher-level writing. You'll further develop the skills essential for crafting academic papers, and explore the differences between expository, persuasive, and reflective essays. At the end this unit, you'll explore the purpose of personal essays and analyze the characteristics of public essays.