

Syllabus

HiSET® Preparation Language Arts-Writing, Part 2

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:

- Develop skills for presenting ideas to an audience.
- Write and interpret informative essays.
- Communicate with media.
- Analyze and write short memoirs.
- Write argumentative essays.
- Understand the importance of punctuation in poetry.
- Use specific word connotations and idiomatic language to enhance writing.
- Understand the characteristics of a literary essay.
- Explore the characters and settings in novels.

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: Reading and Writing about Informational Texts

You'll start this unit by exploring how to modify tone in informational texts to suit an audience. You'll develop the skills required for presenting ideas to an audience. You'll analyze ways to communicate through media and learn to write informative essays. At the end of the lesson, you'll identify the main idea and supporting evidence in informative texts about maintaining a healthy body image. You'll also evaluate structure and reasoning in texts about screen time usage and its effects on adolescent development.

Unit 2: Reading and Writing Narratives

At the start of this unit, you'll explore point of view and theme in the biography of Frederick Douglass. You'll also learn to write short memoirs and explore internal conflict expressed through personal letters. At the end of the unit, you'll explore the theme of identity in literature and evaluate the form and literary elements of narrative nonfiction.

Unit 3: Writing about Short Stories and Poetry

In this unit, you'll learn to write argumentative essays and examine conflict in fiction. You'll explore the theme of change and idiomatic language in literature. Later, you'll explore methods for writing and revising poetry and analyze the importance of punctuation in poetry.

Unit 4: Writing about Novels

In this unit, you'll investigate the characteristics of literary essays and explore characters in a novel by writing an argumentative essay. Next you'll analyze and explore Charles Dickens's narrative approach. Toward the end of the unit, you'll identify characters and settings in novels.