

Course Syllabus

Description: Take an epic journey to refine your reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. You will dive into literary and informational texts to discover the tools authors use to achieve their purpose and voyage through classic and contemporary works to reach new limits of comprehension.

Estimated Completion Time: 2 segments, 32-36 weeks OR 1 segment, 16-18 weeks for one segment course

Major Topics and Concepts

Segment 1

- Identifying and analyzing literary elements
- Analyzing plots
- Reading and comprehending fiction and nonfiction texts
- Writing effective synopses
- Analyzing how figurative language impacts a text's mood and tone
- Analyzing diction
- Writing formally
- Incorporating digital media to enhance a presentation
- Creating a digital-media presentation to enhance an audience's understanding
- Correcting and using parallel structure
- Identifying and using various phrases and clauses
- Identifying and analyzing central ideas
- Identifying and analyzing text structures and text features
- Recognizing and evaluating rhetorical appeals and devices
- Using a thesaurus
- Compare and contrast the development of two opposing arguments on the same topic
- Analyzing connotation and denotation
- Planning and writing an effective argumentative essay
- Breaking down a writing prompt
- Developing and supporting a claim
- Identifying logical fallacies
- Using a standard citation format
- Locating credible sources based on bias, origin, and purpose
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Citing sources correctly
- Formatting a Works Cited page
- Revising and editing written work
- Using signal phrases and transitions in academic writing
- Recognizing and analyzing satire
- Correcting commonly confused words

Segment 1 Honors

- Writing an autobiographical account
- Incorporating figurative language into writing
- Demonstrating understanding of diction's impact on mood and tone
- Crafting a persuasive speech
- Utilizing rhetorical devices and appeals in persuasive writing
- Crafting a satirical work

Segment 2

- Reading and comprehending fiction and nonfiction texts
- Planning and writing an expository essay
- Synthesizing information from multiple texts
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Citing sources correctly
- Formatting a Works Cited page
- Using signal phrases and transitions in academic writing
- Revising and editing written work
- Creating a digital-media presentation to enhance the audience's understanding
- Effectively record a speech utilizing proper enunciation, volume, pacing, etc.
- Reading and analyzing epic poetry
- Exploring archetypes commonly found in literature

- Reading classical dramatic works
- Reading and comprehending a Shakespearean text
- Utilizing context clues to aid in comprehension
- Exploring how cultural experiences are reflected in works of literature
- Comparing and contrasting ways in which authors have adapted mythical, classical, or religious texts
- Citing textual evidence to support an analysis of a text
- Following standard English punctuation rules
- Applying knowledge of etymology and derivations to determine the meaning of words and phrases
- Planning and writing a narrative
- Incorporating narrative techniques into narrative writing
- Incorporating transitions into writing
- Revealing a universal theme in a narrative
- Revising and editing written work



Segment 2 Honors

- Utilizing text structures and features to convey information to an audience
- Creating an informational document to achieve a purpose
- Writing a prologue
- Writing sonnets
- Incorporating literary elements into written work
- Creating a modern adaptation of a classical, mythical, or religious text

Required Materials: Students will be responsible for finding a short story and speech independently.

Grading Policy:

Besides engaging students in challenging curriculum, the course guides students to reflect on their learning and evaluate their progress through a variety of assessments. Assessments can be in the form of practice lessons, multiple-choice questions, writing assignments, projects, research papers, oral assessments, and discussions. The course contains a mandatory final exam or culminating project that will be weighted at 20 % of the student's overall grade.

Communication Policy:

To achieve success, students are expected to submit work in each course weekly. Students can learn at their own pace; however, "any pace" still means that students must make progress in the course every week. To measure learning, students complete self-checks, practice lessons, multiple-choice questions, projects, discussion-based assessments, and discussions. Students are expected to maintain regular contact with teachers; the minimum requirement is monthly. When teachers, students, and parents work together, students are successful.