

Project English 11/12: Interdisciplinary Literature and History (JFK)

Course Description

The major focus of this two year course is to provide students with direct instruction in the skills of reading, writing, oral communication, and critical thinking. Students incorporate higher level skills, including selecting topics, researching, writing for a variety of purposes, conducting interviews, critiquing literature, critiquing other student work, plus practicing cooperative group skills. Through the analysis of a variety of readings, the student gains proficiency with the mechanics of sentence and essay formation, oral communication skills, and higher level thinking skills. Through a series of essays students demonstrate their ability to interpret and analyze American literature to demonstrate mastery of the essential standards of the course.

Some standard assessments for special needs students are adapted for their use.

Standards

Essential

The student can:

READING AND LITERATURE

Read and understand grade-appropriate English language text.

Literature

Actively engage in the reading process and read, understand, respond to, analyze, interpret, evaluate and appreciate a wide variety of fiction, poetic and nonfiction texts.

- Read, analyze and evaluate traditional, classical and contemporary works of literary merit from American literature.
- Interpret the effect of an author's decisions regarding word choice, point of view, style and literary elements.
- Analyze, interpret and evaluate the use of figurative language and imagery in fiction and nonfiction selections, including such elements as symbolism, tone, irony and satire.

- Analyze and evaluate the relationship between and among elements of literature: character, setting, plot, tone, symbolism, rising action, climax, falling action, point of view, theme and conflict/resolutions.
- Demonstrate how literary works reflect the historical contexts that shaped them.

WRITING

Write clearly and coherently for an identified audience and purpose.

Type of Writing

- Plan, organize and compose a literary analysis essay to address a specific audience and purpose.

Important

The student can:

READING AND LITERATURE

Vocabulary Expansion

- Acquire, understand and use vocabulary by learning words through explicit vocabulary instruction and independent reading, and appropriately use these words in writing.
- Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words and metaphors by using dictionaries, context clues and reference books.
- Identify and analyze analogies.

Literature

- Evaluate a literary selection from several critical perspectives.
- Synthesize ideas and make thematic connections among literary texts, public discourse, media and other disciplines.
- Respond to literature using ideas and details from the text to support reactions and make literary connections.

WRITING

Research

- Use print, electronic databases and online resources to access information, organize ideas, and develop writing.
- Identify key terms specific to research tools and processes.
- Narrow the focus of a search by formulating a concise research question or thesis.
- Develop a research plan.
- Evaluate and organize relevant information from a variety of sources, verifying the accuracy and usefulness of gathered information.
- Produce a report with detailed evidence to support a thesis.
- Distinguish between reliable and questionable Internet sources and apply responsible use of technology.
- Understand plagiarism and its consequences, and identify ethical issues of research and documentation.
- Organize and synthesize information from a variety of sources and present it in a logical manner.
- Credit sources for both quoted and paraphrased ideas.
- Cite sources of information using a standard method of documentation, such as a style sheet from the Modern Language Association (MLA) or from the American Psychological Association (APA).
- Proofread the final copy, format correctly and prepare the document for publication or submission.

Enhancements

The student can:

READING AND LITERATURE

Vocabulary Expansion

- Apply knowledge of Greek and Latin roots, prefixes and suffixes to understand content-area vocabulary.
- Understand the meaning of unknown words using derivations, such as word roots and word origins.

Comprehension

- Analyze and draw accurate conclusions about information contained in warranties, contracts, job descriptions, technical descriptions and other informational sources, selected from labels, warnings, manuals, directions, applications and forms in order to complete specific tasks.

Literature

- Analyze classic and contemporary poems for poetic devices.
- Analyze the characteristics of literary forms.
- Read, analyze, and critique dramatic selections by comparing and contrasting ways in which character, scene, dialogue, and staging contribute to the theme and the dramatic effect.
- Read from and respond to a variety of fiction, poetic and nonfiction texts of increasing complexity for personal enjoyment.

WRITING

Type of Writing

- Plan, organize and compose narrative, descriptive and critical writing to address a specific audience and purpose.

SPEAKING, LISTENING AND VIEWING

Speak clearly and effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences and actively listen to, view and evaluate oral communication and media.

Speaking and Listening

- Demonstrate understanding and communicate effectively through listening and speaking.
- Distinguish between speaker's opinion and verifiable facts and analyze the credibility of the presentation.
- Deliver a speech in a logical manner using grammatically correct language, including vocabulary appropriate to the topic, audience and purpose.
- Understand the relationship between nonverbal, interpersonal, and small group communication.
- Describe the role of communication in everyday situations (e.g., advertising, informal social, business, formal social, etc.).
- Understand the effects of media on society and culture.

- Identify and understand essential elements, skills and implications of persuasion, argumentation, and debate as essential oral skills.
- Apply assessment criteria to self-evaluation of oral presentations.