



Strategic Reading 5-6 Syllabus

Course Goals

1 Reading Strategies

Students learn strategies to help with their reading comprehension and ability to retain material.

2 Responding to Texts

Students learn how to write thoughtful responses to materials they have read.

3 Understanding Rhetorical Situation

Students learn how to understand a text more deeply by considering its audience, author's background, persuasive strategies, and context.

Course Topics

1 Close Reading

Students learn how to read material closely to gather specific details.

2 Annotations

Students learn how to take notes on and annotate reading material for retention.

3 Genres

Students read and write across a variety of different genres and styles.

4 Organization

Students learn how to use topic sentences and supporting details to clarify their writing.

5 Outlining

Students learn how to make an outline of the material they have read to enhance retention.

6 Interpretation

Students learn how to uncover the main point and themes of a reading.

7 Paraphrasing

Students learn how to quickly and effectively summarize material they have read.

8 Questioning

Students think critically about what they have read and discuss their thoughts as a class.

9 Skimming

Students learn how to skim through reading material to gather the main points quickly.

10 Cause and Effect

Students analyze texts by considering how certain outcomes are the product of a series of decisions.

11 Rhetorical Devices

Students learn how to strengthen their writing using dialogue, active verbs, and sensory language.

Course Schedule

Day 1

Introduction

Students introduce themselves and discuss the importance of reading strategically.

Close-Reading

Students read a fiction selection and practice close-reading to gather information from context clues.

Previewing

Students learn how to gain an overview of a reading selection by looking at the titles and photo captions.

Film Review

After previewing and discussing a movie review, students write their own.

Day 2

Spelling Exercise

Students practice their spelling and learn about words that may be commonly misspelled.

Annotation

Students learn how to annotate a reading selection then practice this strategy. They write an essay related to the material they annotated.

Note-Taking

Students learn how to take effective notes to emphasize information and review points later.

Day 3

Outlining

Students learn how to outline the material they read so their notes are more organized.

Point of View

Students learn how to write from a different perspective.

Day 4

Vocabulary

Students learn new vocabulary words and discuss their potential uses.

Interpretation

Students interpret poetry to understand what the author is hoping the audience will take from the poem.

Short Story

Students analyze the word choice in a given short story.

Haikus

Students learn how to use sensory language in their writing by creating a haiku.

Day 5**Paraphrasing**

Students learn how to put material in their own words to ensure retention.

Persuasion

Students analyze advertisements and use persuasive techniques to write their own advertisements and letters.

Day 6**Questioning**

Students learn how to generate questions to identify uncertainties about the reading.

Plays

Students learn about plays and how to write a script.

Day 7**Skimming**

Students learn how to skim material to get the main idea of a piece.

Newspaper Articles

Students create a class newspaper, while learning the distinction between subjective and objective writing.

Day 8**Fiction Discussion**

Students read a work of fiction and participate in a detailed discussion of it.

Cause and Effect

Students analyze cause and effect in fictional stories.

Day 9**Summarization**

Students learn how to summarize a piece of literature to explain it to others.

Comics

Students discuss comics and what makes them effective, then they write their own comic strip.

Day 10

Review

Students practice summarization and discuss further reading tips.

Synthesizing

Students learn how to form new ideas based on the material they've read.

Free Writing

Students write about a topic of their choice, then they reflect on the class as a whole.

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