



ACES Academic Enrichment Center

2019 Summer Enrichment Course Syllabus

Course Name: Critical Reading: Close Reading, Logical Analysis, and Evidence Finding – Level I for 5th-6th Graders

Course Description

ACES Critical Reading: Close Reading, Logical Analysis, and Evidence Finding – Level I hones students' critical responses to different genres of literature most commonly encountered in academic settings and on state-wide and national exams. Students will learn and practice close reading by looking beyond the surface-level or plot of a text and into its connotations and themes. Students will also learn how to logically analyze texts in a variety of genres in order to make established arguments and support those arguments with evidence found in the texts themselves. Students will practice several styles of annotating passages as they study not only what a passage says but *how* that passage presents its subject matter. Students will also identify the purpose of a passage, its intended audience, the tone of the author, and the implications a text may have. By the end of the course students will be more engaged as they read and, as a result, improve their overall critical thinking and analytical skills.

Course Objectives and Student Competencies

- Enhance student's reading comprehension especially of complex material
- Gain analytical and critical thinking skills
- Master advanced readings in various subjects: literature, science, health, plays, poetry, opinion papers, philosophy, fiction, social science, satire
- Prepare students for high-school level Pre-AP/SAT/ACT readings

Class Structure

Class begins with a short writing warm-up to introduce the new topic. We will read a type of reading that exemplifies the topic of the day. Students will write an analytical response to the reading, and later, we will discuss their responses and analyses.

Date	Topics	Homework
7/8	Summary vs. Analysis	Reading and Response #1
7/9	Identifying themes and reading beneath the surface	Reading and Response #2
7/10	Deciphering complex nonfiction texts	Reading and Response #3
7/11	Identifying hidden themes, motifs, symbols in more complex literature	Reading and Response #4
7/12	Using the readings to support your argument on theme	