



ACES Academic Enrichment Center

2019 Summer Enrichment Course Syllabus

Course Name: Critical Reading: Close Reading, Logical Analysis, and Evidence Finding – Level II for 6th – 8th Graders

Course Description

ACES Critical Reading: Close Reading, Logical Analysis, and Evidence Finding – Level II, a more advanced version of Critical Reading 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 practice close reading by looking beyond the surface-level or plot of a text and into its connotations and themes in more advanced and more different to discern texts. Students will also learn how to 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, continue to improve their overall critical thinking and analytical skills especially those associated with higher-level texts.

Course Objectives and Student Competencies

- Enhance student's reading comprehension
- Master advanced readings in various subjects: literature, science, technology, history, philosophy, social sciences, health, plays, poetry
- Learn to read beyond the surface of the story and recognize major themes
- Prepare students for Pre-AP level/ACT/SAT readings

Class Structure

Class begins with a discussion of the genre of the day. Students will write an analytical response to a short reading we will do together. Students will then read and analyze a longer passage in class together. Students will take home reading exercises and short analytical questions to work on for homework.

Date	Topics	Homework
7/15	Nonfiction works and speeches like those they would typically see on standardized tests	Reading and Essay Log #1
7/16	Fiction readings – discussion of themes, motifs, and symbols	Reading and Essay Log #2
7/17	Poetry and plays – various types including narrative poetry, sonnets, free verse, and blank verse	Reading and Essay Log #3
7/18	Nonfiction argumentative technology	Reading and Essay Log #4
7/19	Review of skills learned and readings from more advanced texts and those from standardized tests	Course Evaluation