

Reading and Vocabulary (8-9)

In this class, students will learn vocabulary fundamentals including definition, connotation, and common roots, prefixes and suffixes. Students will learn not only lists of helpful new words, but practice how to use them in sentences. Also, through frequent readings that push the knowledge of the students, they will learn how to figure out what unknown words in their readings mean. Readings will cover many topics and styles, both fiction and nonfiction, to expose students to a wide range of materials and ideas, and be accompanied with class discussion. Finally, students will receive tips and practice on different kinds of vocabulary exams, including multiple choice, fill in the blank, and vocabulary-in-context passages similar to what they will encounter on in-class and standardized tests. Students will receive periodic homework reading assignments and be expected to study and memorize assigned vocabulary.

Timed Writing (8-9)

In this class, students will practice various in-class writing assignments, including free write, descriptive, summary, character analysis, literary analysis, compare/contrast, 5-paragraph, argumentative, personal, history, and expository essays. Timed writings will range from 10 to 50 minutes and include the kinds of essays encountered on STAAR, SAT and ACT. Students and the teacher will share their completed essays with each other in order to learn and grow in confidence as they encounter different examples and ideas.

Literary Analysis and Essay Writing (8-9)

In this class, students will learn fundamentals of literary analysis including rhetorical strategies and literary terms. They will complete daily in-class readings that cover many topics and styles, both fiction and nonfiction, to expose students to a wide range of materials and ideas, accompanied with class discussion. Then, students will put their knowledge of literary terms and their reading skills together to write various kinds of analysis essays including characterization, compare/contrast, literary and rhetorical. Students will receive periodic homework in the form of readings or essays to complete, and they will be expected to study and memorize the literary terms.