

# Syllabus

## SAT Writing

### Course Overview

The SAT Writing Course was developed by aligning Plato Courseware with the topics that are assessed on the 2016 SAT. Each unit aligns to one or more topics within the 2016 SAT. This course focuses on the study of different writing strategies and language skills. In this course, you will find a variety of lessons and activities to enhance your knowledge of these strategies.

### Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Explore point of view and theme in Frederick Douglass's *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*.
- Examine the theme of identity in literature, and explore how the topic of place can influence the discussion of identity in poetry.
- Understand how the topic of heritage can influence the discussion of identity in informational texts, and consider how writers modify the tone in these texts to fit the audience.
- Explore examples of famous diaries, and practice keeping your own diary.
- Evaluate your current writing strategy, investigate other strategies to prepare for higher-level writing, and form a main idea in academic writing.
- Examine various writing structures found in informational texts, investigate the characteristics of a literary essay, and identify the steps for writing about literature.
- Explore the characteristics of persuasive essays, and identify effective revision techniques.
- Analyze the literal and figurative language in poetry, as well as examine how a topic is communicated through different types of media.
- Investigate the impact of word choice and structure in stories with plot twists.
- Evaluate subject and theme in short stories, analyze common features of plot development in fiction, and investigate the impact that a point of view has on a story.
- Examine how audience can influence an informational text, identify the main idea and supporting evidence in informative essays, and explain the common mistakes in college-level writing.
- Analyze Charles Dickens' narrative approach to predicting one's future behavior in *A Christmas Carol*.

- Investigate how to craft an essay using evidence, and explore the differences between expository, persuasive, and reflective essays.
- Examine the characteristics of informative essays, and identify as well as practice methods for writing, revising, and editing a paper.

## General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs Presentation.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email.

*For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.*

## Course Materials

- notebook
- pencils or pens
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

## Course Structure

### Unit 1: Expression of Ideas

#### Summary

In Unit 1, you will explore point of view and theme in Frederick Douglass's *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. You will examine the theme of identity in literature, and explore how the topic of place can influence the discussion of identity in poetry. Then, you will evaluate how the topic of heritage can influence the discussion of identity in informational texts, and consider how writers modify the tone in texts to fit the audience. You will also explore examples of famous diaries and practice keeping your own diary. Further, you will analyze your current writing strategy and consider other techniques to prepare for higher-level writing. This unit also has lessons where you will form and

develop a main idea in academic writing. You will examine various writing structures found in informational texts, investigate the characteristics of a literary essay, and identify the steps for writing about literature. In the latter part of this unit, you will explore the characteristics of persuasive essays, and identify effective revision techniques.

## Unit 2: Standard English Conventions

### Summary

In this unit, you will first analyze how to communicate a topic through different types of media. Later, you will study the literal and figurative language used in poetry. You will investigate the impact of word choice and structure in two stories with plot twists, O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi" and Giovanni Boccaccio's "Federigo's Falcon." In addition, you will evaluate subject and theme within short stories, analyze common features of plot development in fiction, and investigate the impact that a point of view has on a story. Next, you will examine how audience can influence an informational text. In this unit, you will also analyze Charles Dickens' narrative approach to predicting one's future behavior in *A Christmas Carol* and consider how your past and present behavior can help you determine the type of student you will be. You will identify the main idea and supporting evidence in informative essays and explain common mistakes in college-level writing. Further, you will investigate how to craft an essay using evidence that supports an argument while avoiding plagiarism and study the differences between expository, persuasive, and reflective essays. Toward the end of this unit, you will examine the characteristics of informative essays, and identify as well as practice methods for writing, revising, and editing a paper.