

Dublin City Schools ACT/SAT Preparation and Literacy Skills Graded Course of Study High School Elective

Philosophy

Having a broad set of literacy skills and strategies is essential to critical thinking, academic success, and college/career readiness. It is essential for all students to be ready for college and career when they graduate from high school. Postsecondary educators expect high school graduates to be prepared academically for success in postsecondary education (ACT, 2005). The ACT and SAT are two recognized standardized test measures that are used throughout the country to help determine readiness for college/career success. College recruitment has become increasingly competitive. Performance on standardized tests as well as development of the literacy skills that are measured are an important element of student selection. With an expanding global economy and 21st century literacy demands, workers need to be prepared for high levels of literacy achievement. These literacy skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking) cross all academic disciplines.

Program or Course Goals

Students will explore a broad set of literacy skills and strategies that are essential to critical thinking, academic success and college/career readiness. The ACT/SAT Preparation and Literacy Skills course will utilize differentiation and self-assessment to determine individual student needs. Students will develop goals and an individual study plan to address identified areas of improvement. Through these exercises, students will gain a set of tools that will be useful, both for ACT and SAT test success and overall literacy development.

- Students will complete, score, and analyze a practice test.
- Students will develop an individualized plan for improvement and set specific measurable goals.
- Students will develop a variety of skills and strategies to enrich personal reading and writing vocabulary.
- Students will master content and develop skills to improve performance on standardized tests.
- Students will develop assessment literacy including test-taking strategies.
- Students will practice critical reading strategies on a variety of text.
- Students will engage in writing to a prompt.



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Categories of Study	
Assessment Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual goal setting • Analysis of standardized test data • Test deconstruction • Analysis of question types found in ACT/SAT • Stamina building • Study of test-taking genre
Reading Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice critical reading strategies focused on literal comprehension and external reasoning • Identify and infer main ideas and authors purpose • Locate supporting details in passages • Identify clear and implied or subtly stated cause and effect relationships in passages • Monitor understanding while reading difficult text • Draw generalizations and conclusions about characters and ideas in passages
Writing Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show clear understanding of prompt • Revise redundant word choice in writing • Express judgments • Focus on the topic • Develop a position • Organize ideas • Show effective use of language to clearly communicate ideas • Demonstrate comprehension by answering literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions about my reading
Vocabulary/ Etymology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the appropriate meaning of words, phrases or statements from figurative or technical context • Distinguish between the literal meaning and (denotation) of words and what they imply (connotation) • Use vocabulary to improve voice and style
Language Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and improve sentence errors and paragraphs. • Use sentence combining techniques effectively • Maintain consistency and logical use of verb tense • Use conventions of punctuation correctly • Use conventions of usage correctly • Ensure subject and verb agreement • Correct usage of possessive pronouns

