

Preparing for College – Introduction

Course Organization

This Unit is divided into fourteen lessons with the final one serving as review of the material covered in the unit. Most lessons follow a standard format starting with a prompt for free writing in your journal. Important or useful vocabulary words come before the reading and writing activities. The lessons in this unit may be done in the order of your choice.

The Journal / Making a Link Between Reader and Text

Most lessons start with a journal entry. A **journal is a notebook in which you write down your thoughts**. The journal entry asks you to write about a topic or to respond to a choice of questions for ten minutes or to fill one page. A journal entry for one lesson might tell you to write for ten minutes about a time when your friends helped you achieve something you could not do alone. It might ask you to describe your best friend. Although the journal writing is not read or graded by your mentor or teacher, it is an essential part of the course as it helps to develop writing fluency. Journal entries are also sometimes used as a starting point for later writing assignments in a unit. Sometimes you will be asked to make a link between a lesson and your own life. Your journal becomes like a friend.

Vocabulary

Lessons usually begin with important or useful words and terms that are listed with their definitions. Use them as an aid in reading the lessons. They will also help you when you review for your unit test. These words are also included in the glossary at the end of the unit for easy referral.

| Word | Definition |
|-------------------------|---|
| higher education | education beyond secondary level, especially education at the college or university level earning an Associate or Bachelor degree |

Comprehension and Critical Thinking Questions

In each lesson you will find both comprehension and critical thinking questions. Comprehension questions require you to find information in your reading assignments to answer the questions. The critical thinking questions ask you to combine bits of information and reach a conclusion. You will need to consider what you have learned from the readings to develop your answers. Answers and suggested acceptable responses to activities are in your PASS contact's Mentor Manual.

Notes or questions for your teacher / mentor

Several lessons in the unit end with a page where you are encouraged to make any notes that will be helpful for you in recalling what you have learned or questions that you want to ask your teacher / mentor so you don't forget them. Use this opportunity to make this course a positive learning experience.

Highlighting and Margin Notes

You should write in the books. When you come to a word you don't know, underline or **highlight** it. Continue reading and try to figure out what the word might mean. When you have finished, go back and make a guess about what the word means; then look in the dictionary. **We suggest writing the meaning in the margin.** As you read, you should write notes to yourself in the margins

Additional Resources

If you have access to the Internet, there is a wealth of resources online. A simple online search with Google or your favorite search engine for resources will locate a number of interesting sites where you may find more information on a variety of topics. If you have questions, try to see if you can find answers on your own—be an active learner and investigate until you find the answer.

Unit Tests

Your mentor has your final test. The Unit Test has short answer and essay questions. This test for this unit has many self assessment questions.