Technical College Readiness English provides a fourth-year English curriculum focusing on developing the mastery of skills identified as critical to postsecondary readiness in reading and writing. Course topics include vocabulary acquisition and use; use of academic and domain-specific words; reading for key ideas and details; reading non-fiction; persuasive, informative and narrative writing; and research.

Robust scaffolding in the form of process guides and graphic organizers helps reluctant writers to internalize strategies and develop composition skills. Select activities target text-handling skills and promote improved performance on commonly assessed literary analysis and response standards. Study sheets support engagement with direct instruction and develop note-taking and study skills.

This course is built to state standards.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Vocabulary: Learning and Using New Words

- Introduction to Vocabulary Building
- Introduction to Context Clues and Word Skipping
- More Using Context
- Connotation
- Idioms and Other Figurative Language
- Using a Thesaurus
- Vocabulary: Learning and Using New Words Wrap-Up

Unit 2: Vocabulary: Learning Academic and Domain Words

- Introduction to Word Roots
- Introduction to Prefixes
- Introduction to Suffixes
- Latin Roots: Part I
- Latin Roots: Part II
- Greek Roots: Part I
- Greek Roots: Part II
- Technical Vocabulary
- Vocabulary: Learning Academic and Domain Words Wrap-Up

Unit 3: Reading: Non-Fiction

- Reading as a Process
- Gaining and Retaining Information
- Introduction to Strategies for Reading Newspapers
- Introduction to Reading Essays
- Introduction to Charts and Graphs

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- Introduction to Reading School Texts
- Introduction to Discovering Meaning Through Design
- Introduction to Evaluating Sources of Visual Media
- Introduction to Comparing Media
- Introduction to Culture in Media
- Reading Non-Fiction Wrap-Up

Unit 4: Reading: Key Ideas and Details

- Main Idea
- Connections Across Texts
- Ralph Waldo Emerson and Self-Reliance
- Reading: Key Ideas and Details Wrap-Up

Unit 5: Reading: Text Structure

- Types of Nonfiction
- Personal Essays and Letters
- Biographies and Interviews
- Opinion and Editorial Essays
- Reading: Text Structure Wrap-Up

Unit 6: Reading: Integrating Knowledge and Ideas

- Introduction to the Art of Persuasion
- Historical Speeches
- Introduction: Historical and Literary Context
- The Declaration of Independence
- Constitutions
- Reading: Integrating Knowledge and Ideas Wrap-Up

Unit 7: Semester I Exam

- Semester I Exam

Unit 8: Language Arts Skills: Mechanics

- Introduction to Spelling Strategies
- Homophones and Homographs
- Grammar: Mechanics
- Punctuation
- Run-on Sentences and Capitalization
- Sentence Fragments
- Language Arts Skills: Mechanics Wrap-Up

Unit 9: Language Arts Skills: Grammar and Usage

- Grammar: Parts of Speech
- Grammar: Parts of Sentences
- Grammar: Verbs
- Grammar: Verb Tense
- Grammar Review

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- Grammar: Pronouns
- Grammar: Unclear Pronouns
- Grammar: Adjectives and Adverbs
- Grammar: Modifiers
- Grammar: Clauses
- Grammar: Parallel Structure
- Language Arts Skills: Grammar and Usage Wrap-Up

Unit 10: Writing: Essentials

- Purpose and Audience
- Essay Essentials
- Style: Making Language More Exact
- Style: Concision and Precision
- Style: Parallelism in Sentence Style
- Style: Appropriate Language
- Style: Sentence Emphasis and Variety
- Style: Figurative Language
- Style: Denotative and Connotative Language
- Style: Tone, Formality, and Informality
- Writing: Essentials Wrap-Up

Unit 11: Writing: Narrative

- Get Excited about Writing!
- Who Are You Anyway? Developing a Character
- Who's on First? Establishing a Point of View
- Stable and Shifting Vantage Points
- Writing: Narrative Wrap-Up

Unit 12: Writing: Informative and Explanatory Text

- Composition: Example and Illustration Paragraphs
- Composition: Process and Cause-and-Effect Paragraphs
- Writing Practice
- Composition: Description and Classification/Division Paragraphs
- Writing Practice
- Composition: Writing About a Process
- Composition: Compare-and-Contrast Essays
- Writing Practice
- Writing: Informative and Explanatory Text Wrap-Up

Unit 13: Writing: Persuasive

- Composition: Persuasive Writing Essays
- Writing Practice
- Opinions and Speeches
- Writing: Persuasive Wrap-Up

Unit 14: Writing: Other Types

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- Composition: Writing Essays about Literature
- Writing Practice
- Composition: Letters and Memos
- Writing Practice
- Biographies and Interviews
- Technical Writing
- Writing: Other Types Wrap-Up

Unit 15: Writing: Research

- Introduction: Research Essay
- The Research Process, Part I
- The Research Process, Part II
- Writing: Research Wrap-Up

Unit 16: Semester II Exam

- Semester II Exam

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