



Thinking and Learning Strategies

Course Syllabus

Course Name:	Thinking and Learning Strategies
Description:	Train your brain's thinking skills and get fit for academics! In this course, you will "coach" your "team" of thinking skills to meet academic challenges. Through reading, writing, and math activities, students develop critical thinking skills and test-taking strategies. Students also gain reading, writing, organization, and study strategies--a powerful one-two punch for any student at any level!
Prerequisites:	None
Estimated Completion Time:	1 semester / 18 weeks
Major Topics and Concepts:	<p>Module 1-- Meet Your Team Topics Covered: Bloom's Thinking Skills, Reading, Writing, and Math pretests, Playbook</p> <p>Module 2 -- Know the Rules of the Game (Level I - Knowledge, Comprehension) Topics Covered: Rereading/During reading strategies, Stated/implied main idea of text, Math terminology and formulas, Understanding/analyzing writing prompts, Scoring rubrics/sample papers</p> <p>Module 3 -- Train Your Brain (Levels I and II - Comprehension, Application, and Analysis) Topics Covered: Analyzing reading questions, Using supporting details, Vocabulary in context, Level II math problems (multiple choice and gridded response), Brainstorming/planning the essay, Writing introductions/conclusions</p> <p>Module 4 - Practice the Plays (Level II - Application, Analysis, and Synthesis) Topics Covered: Compare/Contrast reading questions, Cause/Effect reading questions, Math questions combining strands, Math -- short/extended response questions, Supporting details in essay writing, Strong verbs/descriptive writing</p> <p>Module 5- Go for the Gold - (Level II - Analysis, Synthesis, Evaluation) Topics Covered: Author's attitude, tone and purpose; analyzing reading questions; analyzing word problems and math questions; sentence variety and sentence combining, writing conventions; analyzing essays.</p>
Course Assessment and Participation Requirements:	Besides engaging students in challenging curriculum, the course guides students to reflect on their learning and to evaluate their progress through a variety of assessments. Assessments can be in the form of self-checks, practice lessons, multiple choice questions, writing assignments, projects, research papers, essays, oral assessments, and discussions. Instructors evaluate progress and provide interventions through the variety of assessments built into a course, as well as through contact with the student in other venues.