

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 181

Speed Reading

1 Semester Hour

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

In this course, the student will develop a flexible reading rate which is essential to success in college and important for both personal and professional reading throughout life. Students will learn, through independent and classroom activities, to choose an appropriate reading strategy and rate for various types of reading. Through computer-assisted practice in a lab setting, student will increase their reading speed while maintaining good comprehension. The class will meet two hours a week in the Reading Lab. A minimal comprehension and vocabulary level are necessary to handle the materials in this program. This course is recommended for students who feel a need to increase their reading rate. Students who are required to take, or are taking, ENGL 096 should not register for this course. (2 hours weekly)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize key words and main ideas in a passage.
2. Recognize sequence in a passage.
3. Draw conclusions based on material read.
4. Calculate words per minute read in any reading material.
5. Analyze individual poor reading habits that interfere with speed and comprehension.
6. Develop methods to increase speed and comprehension by improving reading vocabulary.
7. Evaluate reading materials to determine the appropriate reading strategy and speed.
8. Practice flexible reading rates.
9. Practice skimming and scanning appropriate material.
10. Read at least 100 words per minute faster than the assessed entry rate.

Major Topics

- I. Evaluating personal reading rate
 - Read assigned articles at comfortable pace
 - Calculate words per minute

- II. Improving Understanding
 - Recognize key words
 - Recognize main ideas
 - Recognize sequence
 - Visualize character
 - Draw inferences

- III. Increasing Speed
 - Practice rapid visual discrimination
 - Practice expanding visual fixations
 - Diagnose personal poor reading habits
 - Expand reading vocabulary

- IV. Developing Flexible Reading Rates
 - Evaluate materials
 - Evaluate varying purposes for reading
 - Practice skimming and scanning
 - Practice reading at appropriate reading rates

Course Requirements

Grading/Exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Final grades will be based on quizzes, reading journals, lab exercise completion, class participation, and increase of reading rate.

Writing: Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member.

Other Course Information

This course is an Arts and Science and an English Elective.