



## G-E-T High School Curriculum

### Align, Explore, Empower

Scope and Sequence

Applied Communication

#### Unit 1 - *The Glass Castle*

~ 8 weeks

- To begin the course, students will read *The Glass Castle*, a memoir by Jeannette Walls. This text will serve not only as a literary text to be analyzed and studied, but also as a vehicle for developing classroom community, and a major focus will be on oral communication with peers through discussions in small and large groups.

In this unit, students will ...

#### Reading:

- Identify and analyze the importance of story elements including plot, characterization, setting, theme, point of view, etc.
- Identify and analyze figurative language including foreshadowing, irony, symbolism, personification, and irony.
- Form connections between the text and the world regarding family dynamics, poverty and homelessness, social issues, and/or nature vs nurture.
- Recognize universal themes in literature such as forgiveness, difficult childhoods, and lost dreams.

#### Writing:

- Reflect on and respond to the memoir through personal journals, and reflective writing pieces.
- Compare and contrast the memoir with other nonfiction writing (current events, essays, videos, other memoirs).

#### Speaking and Listening:

- Reflect on and respond to the memoir through partner and group discussion.
- Participate actively in group discussion.

#### Language:

- Acquire five ACT/College-ready vocabulary words per week and be able to use them in future writing.

[Standards for Applied Communication Unit 1: \*The Glass Castle\*](#)

## Unit 2 - Project Based Learning

~ 8 weeks

- Taking inspiration from *The Glass Castle*, students will identify one social issue present both in the book and in their local community. Students will then work in groups to first deepen their own understanding of the issue and then devise a project to promote awareness in the community of the issue and perhaps propose a solution or new strategy in attempting to alleviate it.

In this unit, students will ...

### Reading:

- Research effectively using both primary and secondary sources, evaluating sources for credibility.
- Determine main ideas from source material.
- Differentiate between author bias (opinion) and fact.

### Speaking and Listening:

- Discuss and practice appropriate communication for various situations and audiences (professional versus personal, email versus formal letter, in person versus over the phone, etc.)
- Develop effective communication strategies.
- Use problem solving and critical thinking while working in groups.
- Practice effective interview skills.
- Plan, present, and evaluate information orally using public speaking conventions.

### Language/Writing:

- Correctly cite sources using MLA format.
- Use proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.
- Acquire and use 5 ACT/College-ready vocabulary words per week.

[Standards for Applied Communication Unit 2: Project-Based Learning](#)

## Unit 3 - Independent Reading

~ 8 weeks

- While students are also working on their projects, they will in addition be reading a book of their choice and keeping a journal to mark their progress. This book will be one of their own choosing, preferably of high interest to them and/or related to their research and project, and at their current reading level.

In this unit, students will ...

- Identify story elements including plot, characterization, setting, theme, point of view, etc.
- Reflect on and respond to reading through journal entries.
- Identify and discuss themes developed over the course of the book.
- Create and present a project demonstrating a deep understanding of the novel.

[Standards for Applied Communication: Unit 3 -- Independent Reading](#)

#### Unit 4 - Career Exploration

~ 6 weeks

- As they near the end of their high school careers, seniors in this course will further examine their proposed career paths. They will conduct research, including primary and secondary sources, and go on a job shadow, before presenting their findings to the class.

In this unit, students will ...

##### Reading:

- Determine main ideas from informational texts.
- Research effectively using both primary and secondary sources, evaluating sources for credibility.

##### Writing:

- Discuss and practice appropriate communication for various situations and audiences (professional versus personal, email versus formal letter, etc.)
  - Write business letters.
  - Write informal reflections.
  - Write a formal, well-organized expanded definition paper.
- Correctly cite sources using MLA format.
- Write and deliver a formal, persuasive speech.

##### Speaking and Listening:

- Continue to develop effective communication strategies.
- Call a professional and set up a job shadow over the phone.
- Demonstrate appropriate, professional conduct while on a job shadow experience.

##### Language:

- Acquire and use 5 new vocabulary words per week.
- Use proper grammar in writing and speech.
- Use proper punctuation, capitalization, and spelling in writing.

#### [Standards for Applied Communication: Unit 4 -- Career Exploration](#)

#### Unit 5 - Soft Skills

~ 2 weeks

- Students will examine “soft skills” -- what they are, why they are necessary and how they contribute to success in the workplace, and how to develop and strengthen these traits.

In this unit, students will ...

- Practice effective communication skills for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Demonstrate professionalism, maturity, and work ethic among peers and in multiple settings.

#### [Standards for Applied Communication -- Unit 5: Soft Skills](#)

## Unit 6 - Obtaining a Job

~ 6 weeks

- In this unit, students will focus on promoting themselves and their experiences in order to gain employment. Students will practice filling out job applications, and they will also write resumes and cover letters. Students will become familiar with common interview questions and participate in a mock interview, as well.

In this unit, students will ...

### Writing:

- Demonstrate effective writing skills in creating professional documents such as resume and cover letter.
- Effectively and efficiently fill out forms such as job application forms.

### Speaking and Listening:

- Develop and practice communication skills as needed in job interviews.
- Practice professional demeanor.

### Language:

- Use correct conventions (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar).
- Acquire and use 5 new vocabulary words per week.

## [Standards for Applied Communication: Unit 6 -- Obtaining a Job](#)

## Unit 7 -- Demonstration Speech

~ 3 weeks

- Students will discuss many potential situations in which we give instructions. They will analyze sets of instructions and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each. Then, they will develop a formal, demonstration speech which they will deliver to their classmates.

In this unit, students will ...

### Reading:

- Read and analyze instruction manuals from various locations

### Writing:

- Write clear and effective instructions.
- Adapt instructions to suit various audiences.

### Speaking and Listening:

- Plan and deliver an effective demonstration speech.
- Reflect on speech and discuss methods for improvement.

### Language:

- Use correct grammar when speaking.
- Use and acquire 5 ACT/College vocabulary words per week.

[Standards for Applied Communication: Unit 7 -- Demonstration Speech](#)