Independent Study and Finals: Unit Overview

ENG4U, Grade 12 English (University), Unit 7. 9 lessons (10 classes of 75 minutes), with ISU check-ins spread through the semester.

The big question

What can you show, on your own, about how texts work, and how do you join the conversation about them?

The last unit of ENG4U. Students choose and read a teacher-approved novel through the semester (independent study unit), complete three short check-ins during other units, learn to find, evaluate and respond to critical sources, write a 1,500 to 2,000 word comparative essay that connects their novel to a course text and uses at least two critical sources, and lead a small-group seminar (culminating task, part of classroom work). Review lessons teach a sight-text routine for prose and essays, revisit every unit through stations, run a timed practice with conferences, and close with a reflection on the skills students will carry after high school. The final exam (25%, written in the exam period) uses an original reflective essay as its sight text, with a literary essay on a course text.

Lessons

#	Lesson	Classes	Question	Expectations	What's inside
1	**Choose Your Novel**	1	Which novel will I study?	R 1.1, W 4.3, OC 2.1	Book tasting; proposal; reading plan (run early in the semester)
2	**ISU Check-ins**	3 × 20 min	How is my reading developing?	R 1.5, R 1.7, OC 2.1	Narrative and craft; a critical lens and a source; connections
3	**Joining the Critics**	1	How do I use critical sources?	R 1.7, W 1.3, W 3.7	Critical sources vs study guides; databases; three moves; MLA
4	**Comparative Essay Workshop**	1	How do I compare two texts with critics?	W 1.3, W 2.7, R 1.5	Comparative thesis; woven paragraphs with a critic; drafting
5	**ISU Seminar**	2	Can I lead a literary discussion?	OC 2.1, OC 1.9, R 1.5	12-minute seminars (culminating task)
6	**Reading the Unseen**	1	How do I analyse a text I've never seen?	R 1.4, R 1.6, R 2.3	Five-step routine; the essayist's moves; original practice text
7	**Course Review Stations**	1	How do the units connect?	R 1.6, R 2.3, W 2.4	Six stations; essay prompt planning
8	**Practice and Conferences**	1	Am I ready?	W 2.4, W 3.3, W 3.5	Timed practice; self-assessment; conferences

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9	**Looking Forward**	1	What will I carry forward?	R 4.1, W 4.3, M 4.2	Course reflection; skills after high school; letter; closing circle

Assessment

Type	In this unit
Assessment for learning	Novel proposal, check-ins, source evaluator, comparative planner, practice answers, station sheet
Assessment as learning	Peer responses, self-assessments, exam plan, course reflection
Assessment of learning	Culminating task (classroom work): comparative essay with two critical sources and ISU seminar. Final exam (25%): original sight text with questions and a literary essay, with a teacher marking guide

Texts

Included:

- **Original sight text:** “On Repair,” a reflective essay written for the final evaluation, with questions and a marking guide
- **Original practice text:** “The Ice Road,” for Lesson 6
- **Model source:** “Critic A,” an invented critical claim for practising the three moves
- **Suggested ISU novels:** a list of twelve titles with possible course connections (teacher approval required)

ISU novels are chosen and approved by the teacher; no in-copyright novels are included. Preview every title against your board's guidelines. Critical sources must be real and verified by students; AI tools are not sources, and your board's policy on AI use applies. Run Lesson 1 early in the semester and the check-ins during other units.

What's in each lesson

- Teacher lesson plan with expectations, timed sequence, differentiation, look-fors and answer guides
- Slides with speaker notes
- Student handouts and organizers
- Editable Word and PowerPoint files, plus PDFs

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