

Lesson Skill: Comprehending functional and informational text—college application

Strand Reading—nonfiction

SOL 9.5
10.5
11.5
12.5

Materials

- Internet access
- Copies of a sample college application form, such as “The Common Application for Undergraduate College Admission”
- Dictionaries or an online dictionary

Lesson

1. Review basic vocabulary of applications for college admission, as found in a sample application form.
2. Distribute copies of a sample college application form. Brainstorm with the students an identity for an imaginary prospective college student, inventing all the facts that may be needed on a college application. List the imaginary student’s personal data in a graphic organizer on the board.
3. Have small groups of students work on a different page or section of the application, using the prospective college student’s fictitious data.
4. Have each group share the highlights of their work, and discuss with the class any difficulties they may have encountered.
5. Have students add any previously unfamiliar vocabulary and their definitions to a list of terminology for informational reading materials. Allow them to use dictionaries or an online dictionary.

Strategies for Differentiation

- Model the fictitious applicant application as a group project
- Student independently fill out their personal applications – peer editing after completion
- Vocabulary – identify terminology
- Text to Speech – Read aloud