



# How to Use Directed Reading to Augment Your High School Diploma

Directed Reading courses are designed to enable high school students to tailor their learning in almost any area of interest. The Directed Reading program also provides the student with a great deal of flexibility in time and place of learning. Directed reading is not classroom instruction but outside the classroom learning.

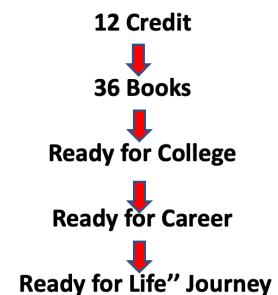
At Citizens High School you can complete your readings and supporting work in as little as four weeks, or you can expand your time of study for up to one year. The basic course structure is centered around reading 3 books in 4 months to earn 1 credit. You also have the flexibility of varying the completion time of each course from 1 month to 1 year and complete as many directed reading courses as you would like during your time in high school.

The directed reading course program offers the student the opportunity to explore in detail any area of interest to them. The student can elect to take one course or several directed reading courses over the time they attend high school. A student could elect to earn 3 directed reading credits each year by reading 3 books every 4 months or 12 books per year. If done over 4 years, the student could earn 12 high school credits or the equivalent of 12 extra courses tailored to their specific area of learning.

## Example of a Student Earning 3 Directed Reading Credits Per Year

<u>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>	<u>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>	<u>11<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>	<u>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 1</b>
<b>Book # 1</b>	<b>Book # 1</b>	<b>Book # 1</b>	<b>Book # 1</b>
<b>Book # 2</b>	<b>Book # 2</b>	<b>Book # 2</b>	<b>Book # 2</b>
<b>Book # 3</b>	<b>Book # 3</b>	<b>Book # 3</b>	<b>Book # 3</b>
<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
<b>Book # 4</b>	<b>Book # 4</b>	<b>Book # 4</b>	<b>Book # 4</b>
<b>Book # 5</b>	<b>Book # 5</b>	<b>Book # 5</b>	<b>Book # 5</b>
<b>Book # 6</b>	<b>Book # 6</b>	<b>Book # 6</b>	<b>Book # 6</b>
<b>Semester 3</b>	<b>Semester 3</b>	<b>Semester 3</b>	<b>Semester 3</b>
<b>Book # 7</b>	<b>Book # 7</b>	<b>Book # 7</b>	<b>Book # 7</b>
<b>Book # 8</b>	<b>Book # 8</b>	<b>Book # 8</b>	<b>Book # 8</b>
<b>Book # 9</b>	<b>Book # 9</b>	<b>Book # 9</b>	<b>Book # 9</b>

### Benefits Compound Reading





## Using Directed Reading to Support Your Local High School Graduation

Although your high school diploma may require between 18 to 24 credits or more to graduate, there are no restrictions to the number of credits you can earn while you attend high school. If your local high school diploma program only allows for 3 or 4 electives, it does not mean you cannot take extra elective courses if your school does not offer them.

Citizens High School Directed Reading Program is set up to augment your local high school learning. It is an excellent opportunity for the student to design their own learning to meet their educational needs and any area of learning interest. **Please view the following page for more information about our Directed Reading Civics Courses.**



## Case Study #1: Students' major areas of interest is Civics

This student believes that their local voice matters. He/she wants to pursue their passion around civic action while completing high school, but the local school does not offer this opportunity. The student is seeking self-improvement and wants to gain a wider perspective on the issues and challenges he/she faces in society. The student can use Directed Reading to bridge the gap in their learning desire even if their local high school does not offer this opportunity.

Directed Reading Course on Social Justice issues. The student can tailor their reading to fit their interest. This example shows a two-course directed reading program.

**The student can take the following Directed Reading Courses in Civics and transfer them to their local high school:**

### Course # 1 Directed Reading on Social Justice

- ***A People's History of the United States*** by Howard Zinn
- ***White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*** by Robin DiAngelo
- ***Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*** by Matthew Desmond

### Course # 2: Directed Reading on Social Justice

- ***The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World*** by Melinda French Gates
- ***Pedagogy of the Oppressed*** by Paulo Freire
- ***So, You Want to Talk About Race*** by Ijeoma Oluo





## Case Study # 2: Student has several major areas of interest and wants to explore them

This student wants to explore several areas of interest and research some possible career areas. She wants to do some deeper reading and understanding about her African American Culture and read and study some of the great works and actions of African American Women.

### Course # 1 Directed Reading on Areas of Career Interests

- ***Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived joyful Life***  
by Bill Burnett 7 Dave Evans
- ***Do What You Are: Discover the Perfect Career for You Through the Secrets of Personality Type*** by Paul Tieger
- ***The Third Door: The Wild Quest to Uncover how the World's Most Successful People Launched Their Careers***  
by Alex Banayan

### Course # 2: Directed Reading in African American Culture

- ***Beloved*** by Toni Morrison
- ***Black Reconstruction in America*** by WEB Du Bois
- ***Dressed in Dreams: A Black Girl's Love Letter to the Power of Fashion***  
by St. Martin Press

The Directed Reading Program is a very flexible reading program that can wrap high school credit around the students' special interests. The course is designed to encourage the development of the whole student through the power of Directed Reading. In collaboration, the teacher and the student define the subject area and the specific reading that supports the student's inquiry.

### Some Final Thoughts on the CHS Directed Reading Program

The Directed Reading program is designed to enable the student to study their interests. Interests and academic credit are appropriately matched to the specific subject area that are well suited for the issuing of academic credit. The Directed Reading Program affords the student the opportunity to learn outside the classroom at the time and place of their choosing. The program provides the learner with a range of self-selected learning opportunities that can support any high school diploma program in America.

- Jim Etter