

Department: English

Course Name: College Prep Writing

Course Description:

This one-semester course is designed for students who want to explore a wider array of styles and forms of written expression in a project-based learning format. The students will do exercises that help them think through the audience and the purpose of their writing as they investigate and complete exercises that deal with prewriting and drafting, peer editing and self-editing, and revision. The students will write in journals, do research, short essay assignments, and explore dimensions of their personal and ethnic heritage in the context of American cultural history. As well as learning how to document correctly primary and secondary sources, the students will learn how to write using narrative scenario introductions and conclusions, how to write book reviews, and how to write from someone else's point of view. They will learn how to show, not tell, use flashbacks, brainstorm, and use direct dialogue.

Content:

Pre-writing as a motivation
Childhood Memories
Recording a typical family meal to report conversation accurately
The Road Map of Life
The 100th Birthday Assignment
Free Wheelin' Fred
A cultural studies composition
The Lost Art of Storytelling
Returning to Fairytales
Garbology
Strong Characters Produce Lively Dialogues
My Life by Lady Macbeth
The Lizzie Borden Project

Skills:

Paragraph construction
Formal and informal writing
Proofreading and editing
Cite research sources
Write a thesis statement
Format and construct an outline
Respond to prompts
Utilize elements of essay writing
Brainstorm
Respond appropriately to informal class discussion/question answer sessions
Articulate/Communicate complex ideas through discussion
Expand arsenal of useful classroom expressions and vocabulary
Describe feelings in more complex terms

Text and Materials:

Dixon, Deborah. *Writing Your Heritage: A Sequence of Thinking, Reading, and Writing Assignments*. N.p.: National Writing Project, 1993.

Markline, Judy, Rose Hawkins and Bob Isaacson. *Thinking on Paper: A Reading-Writing Process Workbook*. New York: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1999.

Standards Consensus Series. *Teaching the Writing Process in High School*. Illinois: National Council of Teachers of English, 1995.

Methods of Instruction:

Lecture
Brainstorming
Small group discussions
In-class writing exercises
Grammar study

Methods of Evaluation:

Tests
Quizzes
Short papers
An extended essay
Homework
In-class participation

