

**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 100<sup>th</sup> 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

