



## Exam Essay Booster 7-9 Syllabus

### Course Goals

#### 1 Improve Essay Writing Skills

Students improve their ability to write focused and concise essays with clear theses, well-structured supporting arguments, strong conclusions, and compelling language. They develop pre-writing and revision techniques, and they learn about the requirements of different types of exam essays.

#### 2 Develop Exam Essay Strategies

Students learn about the requirements of different types of exam essay questions and the rubrics used to grade them. They become familiar with time management and timed essay success strategies. They use self-evaluation, peer scoring, and instructor review to strengthen their grasp of successful essay writing techniques.

### Course Topics

#### 1 Exam Essay Requirements and Grading

Students receive an overview of essay requirements for exams such as the TJ admission exam, SAT and SSAT, and AP exams. They understand the different test formats and rubrics.

#### 2 Usage, Style, and Grammar

Students learn how to perfect their writing technique by discussing subject-verb agreement, active vs. passive verbs, commonly misused phrases, abstract vs. concrete language, sentence structure, and pronouns and antecedents.

#### 3 Essay Structure

Students learn how to build an essay with thesis statements, central and supporting ideas in a proper order, supporting paragraphs, and a strong conclusion.

#### 4 Essay Planning and Revision

Students learn how to plan an essay through pre-writing and brainstorming, "pre-revision" techniques, narrowing the prompt topic, prompt response strategies, and ladders of abstraction.

#### 5 Types of Essays

Students learn about the variety of essays that can be written, including informative, comparative, persuasive, and narrative essays. They learn the requirements and constraints of each type.

#### 6 Writing with Compelling Language

Students learn how to strengthen their essays using proper diction and word choice, persuasive language, idioms, lively language, strong vocabulary, and transition techniques.

#### 7 Timed Essay Success Strategies

Students learn strategies for writing an essay under time constraints, including writing concisely, revising timed essays,

pre-writing efficiently, and building familiarity with writing under time constraints.

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