

Write | Discuss | Revise: The American Revolution 9-10

Write | Discuss | Revise: The American Revolution 9-10 is a content-based writing course for advanced ninth and tenth grade students who are interested in American History.

The course meets weekly over Zoom for eight weeks. Each class is seventy-five minutes. There will be four to ten students in the class.

Each week students read and discuss a section of *The American Revolution: A History*, a concise account of the American Revolution by Gordon S. Wood, a Pulitzer Prize winning professor of history at Brown University.

Each class also includes writing instruction. Students practice writing clear sentences, paragraphs, and multi-paragraph essays in the context of writing about the American Revolution.

Students write a one to two-page paper each week. Classes meet on Mondays. Each student meets with the instructor over Zoom for a 10-minute individual writing conference during the week to discuss drafts and plan revisions. Final papers are due before class on Mondays.

Course Text: *The American Revolution: A History*, by Gordon S. Wood, Modern Library, 2003

- 1) Week One: Introduction
 - a) Discussion
 - i) Contents and Chronology
 - ii) Preface
 - b) Writing Instruction: Sentences
 - i) Sentence Fragments
 - ii) The Four Basic Sentence Types
 - c) Assignments and Planning
 - i) Reading Assignment: Origins (Wood pp. 3-24)
 - ii) Preface Writing Assignment: "According to Wood, what are some of the 'successive generations of historical interpretation' of the American Revolution."
- 2) Week Two: Origins
 - a) Discussion
 - i) Preface Writing Assignment
 - ii) Origins Reading Assignment
 - b) Writing Instruction: Sentences
 - i) Basic Conjunctions
 - ii) Subordinating Conjunctions
 - iii) Appositives
 - c) Assignments and Planning
 - i) Reading Assignment: American Resistance (Wood pp. 27-44)

- ii) Origins Writing Assignment: “According to Wood, what are some of the major demographic changes that lead to the American Revolution?”
- 3) Week Three: American Resistance
 - a) Discussion
 - i) Origins Writing Assignment
 - ii) American Resistance Reading Assignment
 - b) Writing Instruction: Sentence Expansion and Note-Taking
 - i) Sentence Expansion
 - ii) Note-Taking
 - c) Assignments and Planning
 - i) Reading Assignment: Revolution (Wood pp. 47-62)
 - ii) American Resistance Writing Assignment: “What was the Stamp Act of 1765 and why did Americans oppose it?”
- 4) Week Four: Revolution
 - a) Discussion
 - i) American Resistance Writing Assignment
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Revolution
 - b) Writing Instruction: Planning
 - i) Identifying Topic, Audience, and Purpose
 - ii) Paragraph-Level Outlining
 - c) Assignments and Planning
 - i) Reading Assignment: Constitution Making and War (Wood pp. 65-88)
 - ii) Revolution Writing Assignment: “What was the Continental Congress, and what were its major actions in 1774-1776?”
- 5) Week Five: Constitution Making and War
 - a) Discussion
 - i) Revolution Writing Assignment
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Constitution Making and War
 - b) Writing Instruction: Single-Paragraph Outlines
 - i) Standard Paragraph Structures
 - ii) Topic Sentences
 - iii) Concluding Sentences
 - c) Assignments and Planning
 - i) Reading Assignment: Republicanism (Wood pp. 91-109)
 - ii) Constitution Making Writing Assignment: “What are state constitutions and which states adopted new constitutions in 1776-1777? According to Wood, why was this important?”
- 6) Week Six: Republicanism
 - a) Discussion
 - i) Constitution Making Writing Assignment
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Republicanism
 - b) Writing Instruction: Revising a Draft
 - i) Revising Versus Editing
 - ii) Strategies for Revision

- iii) Using Transitions
- c) Assignments and Planning
 - i) Reading Assignment: Republican Society (Wood pp. 113-135)
 - ii) Republicanism Writing Assignment: "Why does Wood describe Republicanism as a radical ideology?"
- 7) Week Seven: Republican Society
 - a) Discussion
 - i) Republicanism Writing Assignment
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Republican Society
 - b) Writing Instruction: Summarization
 - i) Summary Sentences
 - ii) Summary Paragraphs
 - c) Assignments and Planning
 - i) Reading Assignment: The Federal Constitution (Wood pp. 139-166)
 - ii) Republican Society Writing Assignment: "According to Wood, what were the most important economic effects of the Revolutionary War?"
- 8) Week Eight: The Federal Constitution
 - a) Discussion
 - i) Republican Society Writing Assignment
 - ii) Reading Assignment: The Federal Constitution
 - b) Writing Instruction: Multiple-Paragraph Outlines
 - i) Thesis Statements
 - ii) Body Paragraphs
 - iii) Introductions
 - iv) Conclusions
 - c) Concluding Discussion
 - i) Bibliographic Note (Wood pp. 167-176)
 - ii) Writing about History