

Write | Discuss | Revise: U.S. Presidents Washington To Lincoln 5-6

Write | Discuss | Revise: U.S. Presidents Washington to Lincoln 5-6 is a content-based writing course for fifth and sixth 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 about and discuss the personal backgrounds, political careers, and presidential administrations of U.S. Presidents from Washington to Lincoln.

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

Students write a one to two-page paper each week about a presidential speech. 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 Readings:

Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia. "US Presidents." Accessed October 26, 2020. <https://millercenter.org/president>

The Complete Book of US Presidents, by Bill Yenne, Crestline, 2020

1) Week One: George Washington and John Adams (1789-1801)

- a) Discussion
 - i) George Washington
 - ii) John Adams
- b) Writing Instruction: Sentences
 - i) Sentence Fragments
 - ii) The Four Basic Sentence Types
- c) Assignments and Planning
 - i) Writing Assignment: "Thanksgiving Proclamation" (Washington, 1789)
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Jefferson and Madison

2) Week Two: Thomas Jefferson and James Madison (1801-1817)

- a) Discussion
 - i) Writing Assignment: Thanksgiving Proclamation
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Jefferson and Madison
- b) Writing Instruction: Sentences
 - i) Basic Conjunctions
 - ii) Subordinating Conjunctions
 - iii) Appositives
- c) Assignments and Planning
 - i) Writing Assignment: "Instructions to Captain Lewis" (Jefferson, 1803)

- ii) Reading Assignment: Monroe and John Q. Adams
- 3) Week Three: James Monroe and John Q. Adams (1817-1829)**
 - a) Discussion
 - i) Writing Assignment: Instructions to Captain Lewis
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Monroe and John Q. Adams
 - b) Writing Instruction: Sentence Expansion and Note-Taking
 - i) Sentence Expansion
 - ii) Note-Taking
 - c) Assignments and Planning
 - i) Writing Assignment: "Monroe Doctrine" (Monroe, 1823)
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Jackson and Van Buren
- 4) Week Four: Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren (1829-1841)**
 - a) Discussion
 - i) Writing Assignment: "Monroe Doctrine"
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Jackson and Van Buren
 - b) Writing Instruction: Planning
 - i) Identifying Topic, Audience, and Purpose
 - ii) Paragraph-Level Outlining
 - c) Assignments and Planning
 - i) Writing Assignment: "Message Regarding Indian Removal" (Jackson, 1832)
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Harrison, Tyler, Polk
- 5) Week Five: William Harrison, John Tyler, and James Polk (1841-1849)**
 - a) Discussion
 - i) Writing Assignment: "Message Regarding Indian Removal"
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Harrison, Tyler, Polk
 - b) Writing Instruction: Single-Paragraph Outlines
 - i) Standard Paragraph Structures
 - ii) Topic Sentences
 - iii) Concluding Sentences
 - c) Assignments and Planning
 - i) Writing Assignment: "Message Regarding Slavery in the Territories" (Polk, 1848)
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce
- 6) Week Six: Zachary Taylor, Millard Fillmore, and Franklin Pierce (1849-1857)**
 - a) Discussion
 - i) Writing Assignment: "Message Regarding Slavery in the Territories"
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce
 - b) Writing Instruction: Revising a Draft
 - i) Revising Versus Editing
 - ii) Strategies for Revision
 - iii) Using Transitions
 - c) Assignments and Planning
 - i) Writing Assignment: "A House Divided" (Lincoln, 1858)
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Buchanan and Lincoln
- 7) Week Seven: James Buchanan and Abraham Lincoln (1857-1861)**

- a) Discussion
 - i) Writing Assignment: "A House Divided"
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Buchanan and Lincoln
- b) Writing Instruction: Summarization
 - i) Summary Sentences
 - ii) Summary Paragraphs
- c) Assignments and Planning
 - i) Writing Assignment: "First Inaugural Address" (Lincoln, 1861)
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Abraham Lincoln

8) Week Eight: Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865)

- a) Discussion
 - i) Writing Assignment: "First Inaugural Address"
 - ii) Reading Assignment: Abraham Lincoln
- b) Writing Instruction: Multiple-Paragraph Outlines
 - i) Thesis Statements
 - ii) Body Paragraphs
 - iii) Introductions
 - iv) Conclusions
- c) Concluding Discussion
 - i) Primary versus Secondary Sources
 - ii) "Gettysburg Address" (Lincoln, 1863)