

Fairfax Collegiate
2026 Summer Program
Writing for High School Course Syllabus
Rising Grades 7-9



Course Description

Learn techniques for planning, organizing, drafting, and revising high-school level writing.

Write, share, discuss, and revise persuasive, expository, and narrative essays.

Students in this course prepare for the demands of high school assignments. In it, students think critically, develop clear ideas in writing, and experiment with style and structure. With guidance, class discussions, and daily writing practice, students deepen their understanding of the writing process while building confidence in their skills.

Students write a variety of essays, exploring how organization, evidence, diction, and sentence fluency work together to create strong writing. They practice embedding quotations, crafting effective thesis statements, developing vivid imagery, and writing with more control and variety. Peer review, creative exercises, and structured revision sessions keep the class active and supportive as students refine their skills.

By the end of the course, students take home a binder filled with essays, reflections, and writing tools they can continue to use. They leave ready to tackle high-school-level writing with greater clarity, precision, and confidence.

Learning Objectives

Course Goals	<p>Understanding the Writing Process: Students prepare for the rigors of high school writing by setting an individualized writing goal and engaging in daily brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing, and peer-reviewing.</p> <p>Building Organizational Skills: Students learn the most effective ways in which to organize their individual paragraphs and essays to improve clarity and creativity.</p> <p>Persuasive Techniques: Students learn about and evaluate a variety of persuasive techniques and arguments and apply these to writing five paragraph persuasive essays.</p> <p>Improving Writing Style: Students develop their individual writing styles by focusing on word choice, avoiding common grammatical mistakes, and writing using a variety of sentence types.</p>
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	Increasing Depth of Essay Responses: Students learn how to improve the quality of their writing through the inclusion of outside text sources, supporting details, and vivid imagery.
Course Topics	<p>Organization and Structure: Students learn the most effective ways in which to organize their writing at both the paragraph and essay level, including crafting effective topic/concluding sentences and thesis statements.</p> <p>Persuasive Writing: Students apply skills of persuasive writing, including the inclusion of persuasive techniques in arguments and counter-arguments, the use of both anecdotal and textual evidence, and the utilization of emotionally loaded language.</p> <p>Diction: Students develop an understanding of effective word choice related to formal and informal writing styles, including word connotations and passive and active writing.</p> <p>Sentence Fluency: Students learn to write using a variety of sentence types through sentence combining, sentence branching, and the inclusion of both introductory and subordinating clauses.</p> <p>Expository Writing: Students learn how to write expository essays through the study of internal text structures, published informational texts, and effective ways in which to embed quotations.</p> <p>Personal Narrative Writing: Students practice writing personal narratives that include vivid imagery, supporting details, and idioms.</p> <p>Grammar Skills: Students learn about and apply various grammar skills to their writing, including parallel writing structure, subject-verb agreement, proper apostrophe usage, and comma placement.</p>

Course Schedule

Class Meeting 1	<p>Ice Breaker: Last Man Standing: Students get to know each other while also sharing something unique about themselves.</p> <p>Classroom Expectations/Rules: Students learn the Fairfax Collegiate rules as well as rules designed for this writing class.</p> <p>Introductory Discussion About Writing: Students work with others to discuss the writing process.</p> <p>Writing Pre-Assessment: Students write an essay with little to no guidance that will serve as a writing pre-assessment.</p> <p>Pre-Assessment Essay Workshop: Students analyze their pre-assessment writing in order to create a writing goal for themselves.</p> <p>Writing Journal: Writing Journal</p>
Class	Whole Class Discussion of Prompts: Students discuss writing prompts and then receive a handout

Meeting 2	<p>explaining how to break down an individual prompt with practice exercises.</p> <p>Brainstorming Discussion: Students discuss brainstorming methods. The students then practice creative brainstorming both alone and with a partner and in groups.</p> <p>Essay and Paragraph Organization: Students discuss overall essay structure as well as individual paragraph structure. Students practice identifying paragraph parts and putting sentences in the proper order.</p> <p>Introduction to Persuasive Writing: Discussion: Students discuss persuasive writing and persuasive techniques that can be used in writing.</p> <p>Persuasive Essay #1: Students write their first persuasive essay, focusing on essay and paragraph structure as well as the inclusion of persuasive techniques learned.</p> <p>Persuasive Essay 1: Revision: Students work with a partner to analyze their own essay as well as their partner's essay, focusing on essay/paragraph structure and the inclusion of persuasive techniques.</p> <p>Writing Journal: Writing Journal</p>
Class Meeting 3	<p>Introduction to Thesis Statements: Students work to identify and write effective thesis statements.</p> <p>Writing Effective Leads: Students learn techniques for writing effective leads for their introduction paragraphs.</p> <p>Persuasive Essay #2: Students write their second persuasive essay, focusing on both thesis statements as well as the inclusion of persuasive techniques.</p> <p>Persuasive Essay #2 Revision: Students reflect on their second persuasive essay, focusing on thesis statements, essay structure, and persuasive techniques. They also reflect on their writing goals.</p> <p>Writing Journal: Writing Journal</p>
Class Meeting 4	<p>Formal vs. Informal Writing: Students identify the difference between informal and formal writing styles and practice using both in their writing.</p> <p>Introduction: Connotation vs. Denotation: Students work to understand the difference between the denotation and connotation of a word.</p> <p>Persuasive Essay #3: Students write the third of their persuasive essays, keeping in mind essay/paragraph structure, thesis statements, and style/word choice.</p> <p>Persuasive Essay #3: Revision: Students work to analyze the third of their persuasive essays, focusing on the splinter skills learned today.</p> <p>Writing Journal: Writing Journal</p>
Class Meeting 5	<p>Introduction to Sentence Branching: Students practice writing branching sentences.</p> <p>Sentence Types: Students learn the difference between simple, compound, and complex sentences and practice writing and identifying each.</p>

	<p>Sentence Fluency Story: Students create a collaborative story using simple, compound, and complex sentences.</p> <p>Introduction to Expository Writing: Students learn the various ways in which expository texts can be organized and practice writing using these structures.</p> <p>Expository Writing: How-To Essay: Students write a process expository essay and review their writing for possible missed steps.</p> <p>Writing Journal: Writing Journal</p>
Class Meeting 6	<p>Expository Essay #2: Students write the second of their expository essays in a concept/definition structure that effectively embeds quotations from outside sources.</p> <p>Warm Up: Expository Writing: Students practice expository cause and effect writing.</p> <p>Finding and Using Textual Evidence: Students read expository texts. They analyze the information and pull relevant supporting details to include in an expository essay.</p> <p>Expository Essay #2: Reflection: Students reflect on the second of their expository essays, focusing primarily on sentence fluency and embedding textual evidence.</p> <p>Integrating Quotations: Students discuss the proper way to integrate quotations into their own writing.</p> <p>Writing Journal: Writing Journal</p>
Class Meeting 7	<p>Expository Essay #3: Students write the third of their expository essays, focusing on all skills learned throughout their lessons so far.</p> <p>Expository Essay #3: Reflection: Students reflect on the last of their expository essays, taking time to reflect on skills and their writing goals.</p> <p>Working With Idioms: Students define idioms, learn some of the more common English idioms, and work to depict these with art.</p> <p>Working With Metaphors: Students play a game to reinforce the creation of metaphors.</p> <p>Writing Journal: Writing Journal</p>
Class Meeting 8	<p>Introduction: Narrative Writing: Students discuss the major characteristics of narrative writing in preparation for writing their own personal narratives.</p> <p>Imagery With Pictures: Students use photographs to explore writing with imagery.</p> <p>Introduction to Imagery: Students discuss the definition of imagery and begin applying their knowledge to writing using sensory details.</p> <p>Writing With Imagery: Students practice using sensory details by writing about nature.</p> <p>Narrative Essay #1: Students write the first of their narrative essays, focusing on the inclusion of sensory details.</p> <p>Narrative Essay #1: Revision: Students revise their narrative essays, focusing specifically on imagery. Students share their narratives with their classmates.</p> <p>Writing Journal: Writing Journal</p>

<p>Class Meeting 9</p>	<p>Show, Don't Tell: Students work to "show" and not "tell" in their narrative writing.</p> <p>Narrative Essay #2: Students write the second of their narrative essays, focusing on imagery and organization.</p> <p>Narrative Essay #2: Reflection: Students reflect upon and revise the second of their narrative essays.</p> <p>Parallel Writing: Students learn to identify parallel and non-parallel writing in writing. They practice writing parallel sentences.</p> <p>Writing Journal: Writing Journal</p>
<p>Class Meeting 10</p>	<p>Collaborative Narrative Writing: Students work collaboratively to create a narrative story.</p> <p>Narrative Essay #3: Planning and Beginning: Students begin writing their final narrative essay.</p> <p>Narrative Essay Writing: Students continue writing their last narrative essay.</p> <p>Narrative Essay Revision: Students revise their narrative essays, focusing on skills learned throughout the class.</p> <p>Narrative Share Out: Students share their narratives with their classmates.</p> <p>Writing Journal: Writing Journal</p>