

Fairfax Collegiate
2026 Summer Program
Writing Fundamentals Course Syllabus
Rising Grades 4-5



Course Description

Write effective sentences.

Learn the function and structure of sentences and how to diagram sentences.

Use conjunctions to expand sentences and express complex ideas.

Lessons focus on clear instruction and steady practice, helping students learn how to write better sentences, organize paragraphs, and choose words that make their writing more effective.

Students create a variety of engaging pieces throughout the session, including short stories, comics, news articles, and movie reviews. They learn how to write strong topic sentences, use vivid vocabulary, and revise their drafts to make their meaning clear for readers.

At the end of the course, each student takes home a showcase binder featuring their best revised work. They finish the session ready to write longer pieces with clearer structure, stronger sentences, and more confidence in their own voice.

Learning Objectives

Course Goals	<p>Inform and Entertain: Students read, discuss, and practice writing essays and stories to understand and apply the various purposes of writing.</p> <p>Persuasive Writing: Students practice structuring an essay to most effectively persuade readers of their opinion.</p> <p>Revising for Clarity: Students learn to revise their writing on both the higher paragraph and structural level, and on the level of sentence clarity and precision.</p> <p>Building Sentences: Students learn how to break down sentences by examining parts of speech, spelling, grammar, and other mechanics.</p>
Course	<p>Sentence Structure: Students learn how to break down and build up sentences from their</p>

Topics	<p>constituent parts.</p> <p>Goals of Writing: Students read and discuss how different forms of writing work to inform, entertain, and persuade.</p> <p>Engaging the Reader: Students learn how to enhance their writing using techniques such as word choice, descriptive writing, metaphor, and simile.</p> <p>Short Stories: Students practice writing and revising their own short narratives by reading examples and engaging with the world around them.</p> <p>Revision: Students learn the importance of revision to the writing process by reviewing their own and their peers' work.</p> <p>Spelling and Vocabulary: Students expand their vocabulary and learn how to identify commonly misspelled words in their own writing.</p> <p>Analyzing and Arguing: Students practice persuasion and analysis through different forms of writing, including essays and reviews.</p> <p>Writing Mechanics: Students learn various punctuation and grammar rules to clarify their writing.</p> <p>Paragraph Structure: Students practice organizing paragraphs to develop clear and accurate expression, including through the use of Topic Sentences.</p>
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Course Schedule

Class Meeting 1	<p>Introduction to Course: Students introduce themselves and learn about the goals of the class.</p> <p>Observation: Students gain inspiration for subjects to write about through a walk around campus.</p> <p>Sentence Building: Students learn how to make their sentences more vivid and interesting.</p> <p>Narrative: Students write a narrative based on the walk they took earlier in the day.</p> <p>Nonfiction: Students read a non-fiction essay to explore the reasons why people write.</p> <p>Storywriting: Students participate in an illustrated story-writing exercise as a group.</p>
Class Meeting 2	<p>Comics: Students learn how to use humor to create comics and develop characters.</p> <p>Verbs: Students practice using vivid, descriptive verbs in prose.</p>
Class Meeting 3	<p>Sentence Errors: Students learn how to identify and fix sentence run-ons and fragments.</p> <p>The Velveteen Rabbit: Students begin to read the popular short story, "The Velveteen Rabbit."</p>
Class Meeting 4	<p>Story Discussion: Students discuss the characters and parts of "The Velveteen Rabbit."</p> <p>Spelling: Students learn about commonly misspelled words so they can avoid using them in the future.</p> <p>Figures of Speech: Students learn about similes and synonyms and how to use them in their</p>

	<p>writing.</p> <p>Short Story Exercise: Students write a short story using the techniques they have learned throughout the week.</p>
Class Meeting 5	<p>Illustration: Students draw scenes and characters from their short story.</p> <p>Revision: Students learn the importance of revision and practice on their own stories.</p>
Class Meeting 6	<p>News Articles: Students read a news article and have the option of writing their own.</p> <p>Spelling Rules: Students learn more spelling rules to improve the quality of their writing.</p> <p>Movie Review Introduction: Students learn what film reviews are and think about a movie they would like to write a review for.</p>
Class Meeting 7	<p>Planning a Movie Review: Students learn how to develop thesis statements and outlines for a film review after reading examples.</p> <p>Introduction: Students learn how to write an effective introduction paragraph for their film reviews.</p>
Class Meeting 8	<p>Topic Sentences: Students learn how to write effective topic sentences for the body paragraphs of their movie reviews.</p> <p>Commas: Students learn how to properly use commas to clarify their writing.</p>
Class Meeting 9	<p>Show and Tell: Students share their favorite books and discuss the concept of judging books by their covers.</p> <p>Anthology Preparation: Students begin to design and illustrate covers for the final class anthology.</p> <p>Review of Concepts: Students perform final revisions and review the parts of an essay.</p>
Class Meeting 10	<p>Conclusion: Students read their stories aloud and complete the final class anthology.</p>