



Writing Fundamentals 3-4 Syllabus

Course Goals

1 Inform and Entertain

Students read, discuss, and practice writing essays and stories to understand and apply the various purposes of writing.

2 Persuasive Writing

Students practice structuring an essay to most effectively persuade readers of their opinion.

3 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.

4 Building Sentences

Students learn how to break down sentences by examining parts of speech, spelling, grammar, and other mechanics.

Course Topics

1 Goals of Writing

Students read and discuss how different forms of writing work to inform, entertain, and persuade.

2 Sentence Structure

Students learn how to break down and build up sentences from their constituent parts.

3 Paragraph Structure

Students practice organizing paragraphs to develop clear and accurate expression, including through the use of Topic Sentences.

4 Engaging the Reader

Students learn how to enhance their writing using techniques such as word choice, descriptive writing, metaphor, and simile.

5 Short Stories

Students practice writing and revising their own short narratives by reading examples and engaging with the world around them.

6 Analyzing and Arguing

Students practice persuasion and analysis through different forms of writing, including essays and reviews.

7 Revision

Students learn the importance of revision to the writing process by reviewing their own and their peers' work.

8 Spelling and Vocabulary

Students expand their vocabulary and learn how to identify commonly misspelled words in their own writing.

9 Writing Mechanics

Students learn various punctuation and grammar rules to clarify their writing.

Course Schedule

Day 1

Introduction to Course

Students introduce themselves and learn about the goals of the class.

Observation

Students gain inspiration for subjects to write about through a walk around campus.

Sentence Building

Students learn how to make their sentences more vivid and interesting.

Narrative

Students write a narrative based on the walk they took earlier in the day.

Nonfiction

Students read a non-fiction essay to explore the reasons why people write.

Storywriting

Students participate in an illustrated story-writing exercise as a group.

Day 2

Comics

Students learn how to use humor to create comics and develop characters.

Verbs

Students practice using vivid, descriptive verbs in prose.

Day 3

Sentence Errors

Students learn how to identify and fix sentence run-ons and fragments.

The Velveteen Rabbit

Students begin to read the popular short story, "The Velveteen Rabbit"

Day 4

Story Discussion

Students discuss the characters and parts of "The Velveteen Rabbit."

Spelling

Students learn about commonly misspelled words so they can avoid using them in the future.

Figures of Speech

Students learn about similes and synonyms and how to use them in their writing.

Short Story Exercise

Students write a short story using the techniques they have learned throughout the week.

Day 5

Illustration

Students draw scenes and characters from their short story.

Revision

Students learn the importance of revision and practice on their own stories.

Day 6

News Articles

Students read a news article and have the option of writing their own.

Spelling Rules

Students learn more spelling rules to improve the quality of their writing.

Movie Review Introduction

Students learn what film reviews are and think about a movie they would like to write a review for.

Day 7

Planning a Movie Review

Students learn how to develop thesis statements and outlines for a film review after reading examples.

Introduction

Students learn how to write an effective introduction paragraph for their film reviews.

Day 8

Topic Sentences

Students learn how to write effective topic sentences for the body paragraphs of their movie reviews.

Commas

Students learn how to properly use commas to clarify their writing.

Day 9

Show and Tell

Students share their favorite books and discuss the concept of judging books by their covers.

Anthology Preparation

Students begin to design and illustrate covers for the final class anthology.

Review of Concepts

Students perform final revisions and review the parts of an essay.

Day 10

Conclusion

Students read their stories aloud and complete the final class anthology.

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