



## TJ Admissions Prep 7-8 Syllabus

### Course Goals

#### 1 TJ Admissions Process

Students learn about the details and deadlines for each component of the admissions process.

#### 2 Personal Statements

Students invest significant time practicing personal statements and writing about their interest and experience in math, science, technology, engineering, and TJ.

#### 3 Problem-Solving Essays

Students invest time practicing multi-variable problem-solving essays, with an emphasis on organization strategies and explaining their mathematical/scientific thoughts and skills through writing.

#### 4 Timed Essay-Exam Preparation

Students learn how to efficiently work under time constraints and write organized, grammatical, informative essays.

#### 5 Life at TJ

Students learn about what it's like to be a student at TJ, including detailed information about opportunities, school culture, extracurriculars, and any other topic of interest.

### Course Topics

#### 1 Holistic Review Overview

Students learn about the evaluative criteria assessed by the TJ Admissions process.

#### 2 Essay Types

Students review different types of essays that they could be called to write, and how to convey ideas properly in each type.

#### 3 Writing Prompt Analysis

Students learn how to narrow down the topic of a prompt to an idea that can be explained in the time they are given.

#### 4 SPS Response Planning

Students learn about what TJ is looking for in personal statements and plan how they will respond to particular types of prompts.

#### 5 Problem-Solving Response Planning

Students learn about past problem-solving prompts and what TJ is looking for in their written solutions, and they plan how they will respond to particular types of prompts.

#### 6 Personal Statements

Students strategize how to write effective and flattering personal statements, and learn about what topics they may be asked to write about.

#### 7 Essay Structure

Students work on developing an engaging introduction, persuasive supporting paragraphs, and a strong conclusion.

#### 8 Formulaic Writing

Students learn about the benefits of writing with a formula and apply it to their personal statements.

### **9 Sentence Variety**

Students work on varying their sentences to improve the quality of their essays. Students also work on improving diction and effective word choice.

### **10 Revision**

Students learn how to look back over their writing to find mistakes and correct them efficiently.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Day 1**

#### **SPS Diagnostic Pre-Test**

Students will take a preliminary diagnostic to check strengths and weaknesses before instruction begins.

#### **PSE Diagnostic Pre-Test**

Students will take a preliminary diagnostic to check strengths and weaknesses before instruction begins.

#### **Icebreaker**

Students get to know each other by comparing their expectations for TJ and gaining valuable insights from their instructor.

#### **Course Introduction**

Students are introduced to the course and align their expectations with the course goals and aims.

#### **TJ Introduction**

Students are introduced to the mission, aims, opportunities, and culture of TJ.

#### **Admissions Process Introduction**

Students are introduced to the "Holistic Admissions Process" and gain more insight to the requirements and purpose of the Student Portrait Sheet + Problem-Solver Essay.

#### **Day 1 Review**

Students reflect on the plethora of information they've learned on the first day of class, and look ahead to the rest of the course.

### **Day 2**

#### **Seeing Yourself at TJ**

Students think critically about the appeal of TJ, conducting research into the school and its opportunities, and aligning what they find with their own interests.

#### **Introduction to the Problem-Solver Essay**

Students are introduced to the scope and purpose of TJ's Problem-Solver Essay.

#### **Understanding the Rubric**

Students learn about the criteria of evaluation used in this class, and how it approximates TJ's admissions team.

### **Day 3**

#### **Writing About Yourself**

Students think critically about their own strengths that they would like to present to TJ before developing a strategy to confidently present their strengths and interests to a variety of prompts.

#### **Problem-Solver Essay Practice**

Students are provided with Problem-Solver Essay prompts and some simple strategies for completing them before they try to answer them on their own.

## **Day 4**

### **Parsing Through Prompts**

Students develop their ability to interpret challenging, complex prompts and apply that to a number of Problem-Solver Essay examples.

### **Parsing Personal Writing Practice**

Students develop their personal writing through a series of practice prompts.

## **Day 5**

### **Analyzing Hypotheticals**

Students learn about the types of hypothetical questions that are likely to appear on the SPS and learn how to analyze what is being asked and sought for in them.

### **Mid-Session Complete SPS+PSE Progress Test**

Students put what they've learned to this point into practice by completing a timed simulation of the SPS+Essay.

## **Day 6**

### **Writing to Show Your Strengths**

Students learn how to incorporate personal details into narrative writing to make their responses more engaging to readers while meeting their goals of writing a "portrait in words" on the Student Portrait Sheet.

### **Mid-Session Practice Review**

Students collaboratively review their responses to the prompts on the Mid-Session Complete SPS + Essay Practice.

### **PSE Student Response Scoring**

Students collaboratively review the exemplary responses to the prompts on the PSE Pre-Test, which is followed by them using the PSE rubric to score previous student responses.

### **SPS Student Response Scoring**

Students collaboratively review the exemplary responses to the prompts on the SPS Pre-Test, which is followed by them using the SPS rubric to score previous student responses.

## **Day 7**

### **Writing with a Formula**

Students learn the benefits of a formulaic approach to the Problem-Solver Essay.

### **Illuminate Your Reasoning**

Students learn how to strengthen their formulaic responses to PSE prompts.

## **Day 8**

### **Considering the Why**

Students learn and practice the art of weighing outcomes and repercussions before making and explaining their decisions through challenging hypothetical prompts.

### **Using Examples**

Students learn the value of grounding their responses in reality through the use of examples.

## **Day 9**

### **From Solving to Creating and Back**

Students create word problems similar to PSE prompts and challenge their classmates to respond.

### **Make It Yourself**

Students create new prompts to challenge their classmates with and simulate what they might see on TJ's PSE.

### **Peer-to-Peer PSE Practice**

Students practice for the PSE portion of TJ's application process by responding to 3 peer-created prompts.

### **SPS Strategizing Session**

Students review and solidify strategies for SPS question types in a group activity.

### **SPS Practice Prompts**

Students get some final practice before the post-test with a variety of prompts.

## **Day 10**

### **Complete SPS + PSE Post-Test**

Students put what they've learned into practice by completing a timed simulation of the SPS+Essay.

### **End-Session Review**

Students have a final opportunity to discuss the SPS + Essay and address any lingering notes, questions, comments, or concerns.

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