



The Writing Process 5-6 Syllabus

Course Goals

1 The Writing Process

Students learn and engage in the full writing process, including prewriting, drafting, peer-reviewing, revising, editing, performing, and applying the instructor's personalized feedback.

2 Mechanics

Students improve their grammar, spelling, and organization to improve the clarity and enhance the style of their writing.

3 Genre Exploration

Students read, discuss, and attempt to write across a range of different genre conventions, including persuasive essay writing, poetry, and mystery stories.

Course Topics

1 Non-Fiction

Students learn the genre conventions of non-fiction writing, and then use them to craft an engaging descriptive piece.

2 Persuasion

Students learn how a clear structure, strong arguments, and credible evidence can be used to persuade any audience.

3 Poetry

Students explore different forms of poetry, and try their own hand at penning some lines.

4 Fiction

Students craft their own fictional short stories in a variety of genres, using ideas about conflict, narrative arc, and character building.

5 Revision

Students revise and edit all written work to improve clarity, conciseness, and strength, based on feedback from peers and the instructor.

6 Subject-Verb Agreement

Students learn how to match subjects and verbs to clarify their sentences.

7 Punctuation

Students learn how to use quotation marks, commas, and apostrophes correctly.

8 Commonly Confused Words

Students learn about words that are commonly misused so they can avoid using them in future writing.

9 Sentence Structure

Students learn how to avoid writing sentence fragments and run-on sentences.

Course Schedule

Day 1

Introduction

Students introduce themselves and receive an overview of the course.

Non-Fiction

Students read some examples of non-fiction and write an observation report.

Subject-Verb Agreement

Students learn how to make subjects and verbs agree in order to clarify meaning.

The Writing Process

Students learn what the writing process is and how it will help with their assignments.

Day 2

Observation Report

Students revise the observation report they wrote the previous day.

Persuasive Reading and Writing

Students write a persuasive letter after reading some examples.

Conjunctions

Students learn about coordinating and correlative conjunctions and how to use them in their writing.

Day 3

Persuasive Letter

Students revise the persuasive letter they wrote the previous day.

Poetry

After reading some examples, students write their own poems.

Commonly Confused Words 1

Students begin to go over words that are commonly misused in writing.

Day 4

Poetry Revision

Students revise the poems they wrote the previous day.

Mysteries

Students read examples of mystery stories then write an essay from the viewpoint of a spy.

Peer Review

Students review the persuasive letters they wrote in groups and defend the arguments they made.

Quotation Marks

Students learn how to properly use quotation marks to indicate dialogue in their stories.

Day 5

Spy Assignment

Students revise the essay they wrote the previous day.

Comics

Students illustrate and write their own comic strips.

The Hook

Students learn how to get a reader's attention and keep him or her engaged while reading a written piece.

Commas

Students learn how to properly use commas in their sentences.

Day 6

Comic Strip Revision

Students rewrite the comic strips they created as a short story.

Change the World

Students begin to write an essay about what they would like to see change in the world.

Commonly Confused Words 2

Students continue to learn about words that are commonly misused in writing.

Day 7

Change the World Outline

Students revise the introduction to their Change the World essay and set up an outline for the remainder.

Fiction

Students read an example of fiction and then write their own fictional story.

Apostrophes

Students learn where to properly place apostrophes in their writing.

Day 8

Change the World Drafting

Students write the final paragraphs of their Change the World essay.

Additional Poetry

Students compose poems in the style of poems they have read and enjoyed.

Sentences

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

Anthology Preparation

Students choose one poem and one piece of prose to revise and present for the final anthology.

Day 9

Change the World Revision

Students revise their Change the World essay to allow it to be used in the class anthology.

Science Fiction

Students read and discuss a science fiction short story.

Commonly Confused Words 3

Students learn about additional words that are commonly misused while writing.

Anthology Revision

Students revise and illustrate their submissions to the class anthology.

Creative Writing

Students participate in a creative writing exercise involving science fiction.

Day 10

Cover Design

Students design a cover for their copy of the class literary anthology. Consider bringing in craft supplies. If time remains, consider having each student write an introduction to the anthology. If time remains, ask the students to illustrate various pages.

Open Reading

Students choose a piece of work to read out loud for the class.

Grammar Post-Test

Students complete a grammar test to review what they have learned throughout the session.

Conclusions

Students reflect on the course and present a book they have brought in for Show and Tell.

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