**College Writing Syllabus**

**Ms. Sloan**

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College Writing is designed to prepare students for the rigor of writing at the college level. Our goal is to teach students to write clearly, precisely, and powerfully, and to meet the needs of audience and purpose. These qualities of effective writing must be nurtured through constant practice, so we will write every day and we will reproduce our work so that others may respond to it. In effect, we will establish a community of writers in which members can accept and offer constructive criticism.

This course will guide students to an overall understanding of effective writing through exposure to several different types of writing with a variety of audiences and purposes, beginning with poetry and narration and then proceeding through exposition, argument, and research. Grammar, usage, and correct sentence structure will be taught throughout all genres of writing. Most important, students will find their own “voice” through this course so that their writing is genuine, original and engaging.

**Semester 1 Curriculum**

**Writing and Reading Genres: Poetry, Short Prose, Personal Narrative, Narrative/Fiction, Digital Story, Research, Podcasting, Grammar, Conventions, Sentence structure, Style. *More specifically, students will*:**

identify qualities of effective and ineffective writing—practice using the effective ones

assess writing quality through use of 6 traits vocabulary

identify and use concrete language; make choices about detail—where and what to include

develop ideas through use of daybook writing, brainstorming, dialoguing, recalling

develop prewriting techniques

understand the difference between showing vs. telling; develop the power of showing

read and write poetry as a way of ‘trimming the fat’ out of writing

use figurative language/poetic devices, sound techniques, imagery, and descriptive detail

understand how to create appropriate tone and mood through word choice and word connotation

understand and use correct sentence structure, grammar and usage in all writing

read text excerpts, articles, research, and writing models and apply that information to student writing

locate and read research articles; incorporate researched information in essay writing

develop effective sentence fluency through variety in sentence length, complexity, and style

understand correct punctuation and use effective variety in punctuation

read and write narrative as a way of studying story structure, focus, characterization, use of dialogue

use podcasting and digital story to create a multi-layered effect with voice, music, and image

use effective peer response techniques to improve writing, revision, and communication skills

**Semester 2 Curriculum**

**Writing and Reading Genres: Inquiry and Research, Expository, Argument, Digital Story, Multigenre, Grammar, Conventions, Sentence Structure, Style *More specifically, students will:***

apply all semester 1 skills and techniques to semester 2 writing

use prewriting and inquiry strategies to develop ideas

read text excerpts and a variety of essays; apply information and models to student writing

locate and read research articles; use researched information in essay writing

use direct and indirect theses in essay writing

understand how purpose and audience affect writing, style, form, structure, message, and tone

use a variety of development strategies and writing forms depending on purpose and audience

understand how argument works; write logical, well supported arguments

understand the complexity of research processes; use a variety of research techniques

use correct MLA format, including parenthetical citations and complete bibliographies

read text excerpts, articles, and writing models and apply that information to student writing

develop a multi-genre research project; use digital story within a research project

use advanced sentence structure, style, and punctuation

use effective peer response techniques to improve writing, revision, and communication skills.

***Portfolios will be due at the end of every quarter and will comprise 30% of the quarter grade***

***Additionally, each portfolio will be your quarterly assessment grade, totaling 20% of your semester grade .***