

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
Expository Writing I

Required Text(s)

Bauer, Susan Wise. *Writing With Skill, Student Workbook Level 1*. Charles City: Peace Hill Press, 2012.

The most recent version of *Roget's International Thesaurus* will be used in our class (the thick one!). (Although you do not need to purchase it if your student already owns a thesaurus.)

Course Description

Building pre-rhetoric skills in organization, sentence structure, and research skills. Covers narrative summaries, chronological narratives, descriptions, biographical sketches, and sequences, plus beginning literary essays about both fiction and poetry; one- and two-level outlining; thesaurus use, note taking, and documentation.

Written Assignments

- Weekly Assignments: Most weeks there will be a weekly assignment to be completed by the end of the week (see the course schedule). This assignment will ask the student to apply concepts and/or skills learned in the preceding week.
- Short Essays: Over the course of the year, there will be two “short essays” assigned. The first one will be 1 page (250 words) in length, and the second one will be 2 pages (500 words) long. These essays will combine and review concepts learned in class in the previous weeks.
- Midterm Essay: There will be one midterm essay (800 words long) where the student will utilize skills learned throughout the first semester to write a chronological narrative and a description of a person.
- Final Project: Students will utilize skills learned throughout the year to complete a final composition based on their own research of a chosen topic.

Class Participation

Active class participation includes regularly answering questions, bringing up interesting comments, sharing work with others and responding to others’ work in kind, promptness with class attendance, and other behavior that demonstrates intellectual engagement and social courtesy. The expectation is that all students will contribute to our classroom environment and share their unique insights, skills, and voice with others in a conscientious and cogent manner.

Grade Breakdown

Weekly Writing Assignments:	50%
Short Essays:	15%
Midterm Essay Exam:	15%
Final Project:	20%

Assignments

Assignment Submission: All assignments will have a firm deadline posted to Blackboard with the assignment. Please be sure to plan accordingly.

Late Assignments: Well-Trained Mind Academy instructors enforce individual late work policies that best support the content of their courses; as such, expect late work policies to vary from instructor to instructor. However, no credit will be earned for work turned in more than one week late in any Academy course. Individual instructors may modify this policy in select circumstances. In this course, any assignment turned in up to one week late earns an automatic 10% deduction of credit. An assignment turned in more than one week late earns 0% credit.

The Well-Trained Mind Academy supports an assignment submission policy in which delayed students are held to the same submission schedule as their live-class peers. Individual instructors may modify this policy at their discretion.

Incomplete Assignments: For every missing or incomplete assignment, the student will receive a grade of 0. A student who misses 10 or more assignments will not receive a passing grade or certificate of completion for the course.

Major Assignments Must Be Completed: In order to earn a grade in the course, all major assignments must be completed. This includes midterm and final exams, and all major papers and projects. Students who do not complete all major assignments will receive a grade of zero for the course. In this course specifically, major assignments include all assigned essays, long and short.

Assignment Feedback: Our writing courses prioritize fostering students' independent growth and critical thinking. While instructors provide regular feedback and guidance, they do not typically provide copy editing, adhering to our commitment to cultivating students' writing skills authentically. You can read more about the feedback a student can expect [here](#).

Email Communication with Instructor: Please email me with any questions or concerns you have regarding the course. I will respond to any email within 24 hours during weekdays (but this is not guaranteed for emails submitted over the weekend).

The course schedule is posted to Blackboard as a separate document.

Please review the Academy Policies on our Blackboard page under “Academy Policies.”

Sample Schedule: The following schedule serves as a sample outline for the course; please note that weeks and topics are subject to change based on the current academic calendar.

Fall Semester:

Weeks 1-2: Narrative Summaries & Outlines

Week 3: Using the Thesaurus & Outlines

Weeks 4-5: Chronological Narrative of a Past Event, Chronological Narrative of a Scientific Discovery

Weeks 6-8: Review Chronological Narratives, Description of a Place

Week 9: Combining Chronological Narrative of a Past Event and Description of a Place
(Essay 1 Due)

Weeks 10-11: Scientific Description

Week 12: Combining Chronological Narrative of a Scientific Discovery and Scientific Description

Weeks 13-14: Description of a Person

Week 15: Introduce Midterm Essay

Week 16: Midterm Draft Reviews

Week 17: Midterm Essay Due (Exam Week: No Classes Held)

Spring Semester:

Weeks 1-2: Biographical Sketch

Weeks 3-4: Sequence: Natural Process

Week 5: Hero/Villain, Protagonist/Antagonist

Week 6: Supporting Characters

Week 7: Idea Stories (Essay 2 Due)

Week 8: Two-Level Outlining

Week 9: Documentation

Week 10: Writing from Notes: Chronological Narrative of a Past Event, Description of a Person, Description of a Place

Week 11: Writing from Notes: Sequence: Natural Process, Scientific Description

Week 12: Writing from Notes: Biographical Sketch, Description of a Person

Weeks 13-14: Sound | Meter | Narrative

Week 15: Review of Sample Essays

Week 16: Initial Draft of Final Essay Due, Discussing Drafts

Week 17: Final Essay Due (Exam Week: No Classes Held)