

Creative Writing Course Overview

Quarter 1

Viewing the World as a Writer

Community Building & Survey of Writing Genres



Creative Writing begins with students learning to view the world through the lens of a writer. By surveying foundational writing elements, students will begin to identify essential characteristics of quality writing that they will master in the course. In addition to a preview of course content, students will experience what it means to participate in a writing community by building a supportive network with their classmates. An emphasis on respectful dialogue, elements of the writing process, and opportunities for publication within the larger creative writing community will build a foundation upon which student writers can foster relationships with fellow authors throughout the semester-long course.

Playing with Poetry and Perspective

Poetry Writing



In this second unit, student writers will explore multiple perspectives expressed through the genre of poetry as it exists in modern society. Through surveying numerous poetry subgenres, including songs, visual poetry, and spoken word poetry. Students will experience how writers convey their perspective and express their unique voices through various forms. An emphasis on craft moves to create effect with intentionality will provide student writers with an opportunity to “play” with poetry forms to achieve multiple goals. A key outcome of this unit is to connect how the lens of a writer can impact intended meaning with how the lens of a reader can impact perceived meaning.

Quarter 2

Exploring Storytelling

Fiction Writing



Quarter 2 begins with an exploration of storytelling through the genre of fiction writing. Student writers will showcase how their imaginations can build worlds, create unique story arcs, and strategically utilize fiction devices such as dialogue and conflict to subvert a reader’s expectation and keep audiences engaged. Opportunities for authentic publication are embedded in this unit, as writers have developed a sense of writing identity, a passion to pursue creating longer works, and a commitment to engage in the feedback process from multiple sources.

Adapting Drama in Many Forms

Drama Writing



As endings are often dramatic, the closure to Creative Writing will feature drama in many forms, such as plays, musicals, and screenplays. By connecting dramatic elements to multiple adaptations of the traditional genre, student writers will immerse themselves in different forms of “story” and will learn how varied formatting approaches impact meaning. Through the lens of a writer, students will finalize publication choices such as how to market their completed products and how visual expression can change an audience’s reception of a written text. Students will also have opportunities to showcase their culminating works from the course.