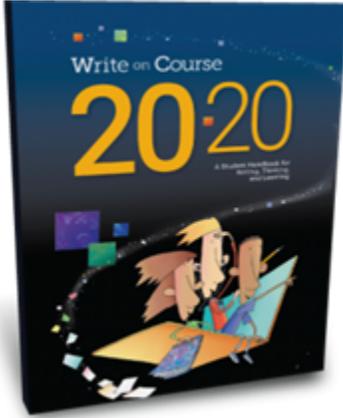


## Essay/Creative Writing 2026.27



**Instructor:** Bethany Mozley

**Email:** bethany.mozley@scholarsguild.net

**Supply Fee:** \$40 (due May 5, 2026)

**Book Fee:** \$30 (due May 5, 2026 or until supplies last) \*See details below under the "Course Text" section.

**Prerequisite:** This course will be appropriate for primarily 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have had previous writing experience with successful progression of skills and who are ready to move up to a more challenging course in essay writing. Students will need to be able to write complete cohesive paragraphs with topic sentences and clinchers. 7th graders will be considered with administrative approval.

**Minimum Class Size:** 6

**Monthly Tuition - \$55 / month**

(9 equal payments August - April)

**Total Yearly Tuition - \$495**

### Course Description

In this 1.25 hour course, the students will be introduced to different forms of writing which will include personal, narrative, expository, persuasive, and research-based. They will learn how to create thesis statements, organize essays, write clear introductions and conclusions, and create planning sheets for essay topics. In addition, part of the course will focus on in-class writing from prompts, poetry writing, and creative writing. We will also cover a unit on avoiding plagiarism and will have grammar lessons on a weekly basis that correspond to 8th grade standards and align with SGA's grammar scope and sequence.

### Primary Course Text

*Write on Course 20-20, Thoughtful Learning, 2016, Softcover* ISBN: 978-1-941660-33-1

(Purchase - <https://k12.thoughtfullearning.com/products/write-course-20-20>)

*\*This is a writing handbook which will be utilized throughout all of the instruction given in class. The instructor will provide additional instructional material to the students.*

### Grammar Curriculum

*Thoughtful Learning, Inside Grammar, Grades 6-8* (digital material that will be purchased by the teacher and provided to the student using Supply Fee funds) - **No purchase necessary!**

**For reference only:** <https://k12.thoughtfullearning.com/inside-grammar>

**NOTE:** The shipping for this textbook from the website doubles the price of the book. I will be purchasing a class set that will be available for students to “rent” from me in order to help parents avoid this excessive shipping cost. If you would like to rent the book for the year for \$30, please pay the book fee listed above. If you return the book at the end of the year in good condition, I will return \$10 to you. I will email parents again about these options in May/June. You may certainly buy or find a used version of the book, but if you cannot, please feel free to take advantage of this “rental” offer to avoid the website’s shipping fees. I will need to know by June 1, 2026, if you’d like to secure a rented copy from me. You are not required to rent the book through me; this is just an option.

### **Supplies**

- One-inch three-ring binder w/dividers and notebook paper
- A notebook or journal of the student’s choosing (spiral notebook or composition notebook is fine); will be brought to class each week
- Pens and pencils
- Set of colored pencils or highlighters

### **Course Expectations**

***In-Class:*** Students should come prepared each week with all materials and should turn in all homework at the beginning of class. Each week, the instruction will focus on a different aspect or skill associated with writing, including but not limited to: strong verbs and quality adjectives, sensory language, dialogue, parts of a narrative, formal/informal tone, transitions, introductions, thesis statements, and conclusions. Students should expect to take notes in class, participate in group activities, and complete in-class writing assignments.

***At home:*** Homework will be given each week in the form of answering writing prompts; completing writing components, such as introductions, conclusions, and transitions; practicing grammar and stylistic techniques; and composing essays. The homework will vary depending on the topic covered in class each week. Some weeks, the amount of writing will be lighter (1-3 paragraphs), and some weeks, it will be heavier (essays and stories). Students are expected to check Google Classroom for all assignments and information and complete all assignments at home with parental guidance as needed. Parental guidance is very important. With only 75 minutes of class time each week, the actual writing in this course will primarily be done at home while class time will be spent on instruction and idea organization. Therefore, if the work at home is not completed, then the student will not progress in writing skills.

### **Assessments**

For this class, assignments will be graded on a point system. Students will have criteria to meet on homework assignments which they can keep track of using a checklist provided. Every homework assignment will be given a point value. Homework exercises are given point values ranging from 20-50. Essays and major writing assignments will range from 50-100 points. General homework completion grades and pop quizzes will be worth 10 points. These grades will be tallied throughout the year. Grades will be entered and updated on FACTS several times during each term.

### **Summer Assignments**

No summer assignments will be given for this class.

### **Teacher Responsibility**

The instructor will develop plans, provide engaging in-class instruction, and give homework assignments and study aids as needed. Homework assignments will be posted weekly on FACTS and on Google Classroom, and grades will be given in a timely manner. All essays and major writing assignments will be returned with feedback for the students' improvement. The instructor will be available by email for any questions during the week and will respond promptly to parent or student contact.

### **Student Responsibility**

It is the student's responsibility to be on time for class, be prepared with all materials, complete assignments on time, participate in group activities, and keep up with assignments on Google Classroom. It is also the student's responsibility to ask questions for clarification and to seek help from the instructor outside of class if needed. See other in-class and at-home expectations above.

### **Parent Responsibility**

Parents are responsible for overseeing assignments at home and being sure that the student understands the material as the course progresses. Parents are expected to check class notes and assignments on FACTS weekly, to encourage the student, and to hold him/her accountable to following instructions and completing assignments. When essays are written, parents are expected to be their child's first editor. However, it is also the parent's responsibility to realize that his or her child will not improve in writing if the parent simply corrects everything for the student or assists too much in the completion of each assignment. Parents should help the student recognize errors in writing or mechanics and encourage *the student* to correct the errors. This includes checking for spelling and grammar errors. Parents are also encouraged to contact the teacher any time they need clarification on an assignment or if they notice their student struggling to understand a skill presented.