

College Writing & Research

Grade Level: 12 Semester Elective: ½ Credit

In this one-semester senior elective, students will practice expository writing skills to foster clarity, organization, and precision as they develop ideas. Students will critically analyze well-written texts and use them as models for writing. This course is designed to help students prepare for college-level freshman English courses. Students will also learn how to navigate databases and online resources in the compilation and synthesis of research. Students will produce a fully-documented research paper on a subject of their choice.

How is the course structured?

Course Components

- Reading Fiction and Non-Fiction Texts, Questioning Techniques for Productive Discussion, Annotating Texts for Central Idea, Analysis and Evaluation, Research, Language Interpretation and Analysis, Steps of the Writing Process, Writing Analysis, Narrative, and Argument Essays

Course Grade Based On:

- Participation in Discussion, Individual and Small Group Activities, Daily Writing and Note-Taking, Projects, Research, Essay Writing in a Variety of Modes

What can I expect?

Course Workload:

- Active participation in class is necessary for success. Homework is given throughout the unit, and can be partly done in class. All work is presented on weekly activity lists, in advance, and students are encouraged to manage their time productively in class and out.

Homework Frequency:

- 1-2 times per week

Type of Homework:

- Reading and Annotating, Journal Responses for Close Reading, Outlining, Drafting, and Revision of Writing

Major Projects:

- Personal Essay Writing in a Rhetorical Mode (college application essay covered in fall semester), Comparative Essay Based on Music Covers, Reading Response Essay, Research-Based Argumentative Writing, Analysis of an Ethical Dilemma, Narrative Essay

Text Titles May Include:

- *Writing and Reading Across the Curriculum* by Laurence Behrens and Leonard J. Rosen, *Patterns of Exposition* by Robert A. Schwegler, various models of effective expository writing authored by diverse writers and voices.

Additional Information:

- Course will include extensive workshop-style revision sessions and individual writing conferences.