

Course Name: Composition 8

Grade Level: 8th Grade

Teachers Collaborating: Megan Blakely

Unit/Topic: Writing Types “Student units are...”	Specific Content and Skills Taught: <u>Curriculum Objectives & Rubric Elements</u> “Students will learn...”	Evidence of Mastery: Assignments & Outcomes “Students will create...”
1 Semester Course		
Unit 1: Descriptive Writing Prose & Poetry (First 3+ weeks)	Unit EQ: - What is Descriptive Writing (and how will our assessment be an example of this type of writing)? Unit Skills: (1) Word Choice & Vocabulary (a) Emphasis on descriptive & figurative language (imagery) (b) No “to be” verbs (active verb/ word choice) (2) Voice & Style (a) Poetry 101 (intro to basic types) (3) Peer Editing & Feedback (a) Using Google Drive, Docs, & Forms	Formative: - Composition Notes Journal: Daily Quick Writes (this unit all are descriptive writing focused) - Picture & Brainstorm - Unit Reflection Summative: 1 Descriptive Paragraph & 1 Poem (individual) Rubric (40pts) - Word Choice & Vocabulary (20pts) - Voice & Style (20pts)
Unit 2: Narrative Writing Short Story & Choose Your Adventure Story (Second 3+ weeks)	Unit EQ: - What is Narrative Writing (and how will our assessment be an example of this type of writing)? Unit Skills: (4) Ideas & Content (a) Fighting writer’s block (b) Where to get story ideas & inspiration (5) Organization & Structure (a) Outlining skills (b) How to write dialogue	Formative: - Composition Notes Journal: Daily Quick Writes (this unit all are narrative writing focused) - Story Outline - Unit Reflection Summative: 3-5 Page Short Story (individual) OR 6-10 Level Choose Your Adventure Story (partner)

		<u>Unit 2 Rubric (60pts)</u> • Word Choice & Vocabulary (10pts) • Voice & Style (10pts) • Ideas & Content (20pts) • Organization & Structure (20pts)
Unit 3: Persuasive Writing Advertisement or Petition (Third 3+ weeks)	Unit EQ: • What is Persuasive Writing (and how will our assessment be an example of this type of writing)? Unit Skills: (6) Audience & Author Purpose (a) How to identify an audience (b) Persuade vs. inform vs. entertain (7) Format & Presentation (a) How to use templates/ specific formats (b) Visual presentation tips & tricks	Formative: • Composition Notes Journal: Daily Quick Writes (this unit all are persuasive writing focused) • Pitch (verbal) • Unit Reflection Summative: • 1+ Page Proposal w/ Petition signatures (partner) OR • 1+ Page Commercial Script w/ filmed Advertisement (partner) <u>Rubric (60pts)</u> • Word Choice & Vocabulary (10pts) • Voice & Style (10pts) • Ideas & Content (10pts) • Organization & Structure (10pts) • Audience & Author Purpose (20pts) • Format & Presentation (20pts)
Unit 4: Expository Writing Resume & Cover Letter (Fourth 3+ weeks)	Unit EQ: • What is Expository Writing (and how will our assessment be an example of this type of writing)? Unit Skills: (8) Research & Reliable Resources (a) Research “Dream Job” (9) Fluency & Flow (a) Sentence types and variation (simple, complex, compound, compound-complex) (b) Internal transitions	Formative: • Composition Notes Journal: Daily Quick Writes (this unit all are expository writing focused) • Research & Resources • Unit Reflection Summative: • 1 Page Resume & 1 Page Cover Letter (individual)

	(10) Grammar & Mechanics (a) Basic grammar mistakes and how to avoid them (b) Optional extra grammar work unit in Classcraft (based around TedEd grammar videos)	<u>Rubric (80pts)</u> • Word Choice & Vocabulary (10pts) • Voice & Style (10pts) • Ideas & Content (10pts) • Organization & Structure (10pts) • Audience & Author Purpose (10pts) • Format & Presentation (10pts) • Fluency & Flow (20pts) • Grammar & Mechanics (20pts)
Unit 5: Final Project* Student Choice Writing Project (Final weeks, no exam) *Students choice final project can be <i>any</i> writing type; there are unlimited choices and options for final writing project! <i>Note: No length requirements on the final project; they are evaluated on quality, not quantity</i>	Unit EQ: • What are my areas of strength as a writer and how can I highlight those in my work? Unit Skills: • No NEW skills taught, but ALL class skills assessed • Soft Skills = Time management & focus; multiple drafts and editing	Formative: • Strengths & Weaknesses • Individual Student "Check-Ins" • Unit Reflection Summative: Student Choice (some options): • Book of Poetry • Website/ Blog • Sports Article or ESPN Script • Standup Comedy Routine • Novel/ Book (outline & start) • Fan Fiction Short Story • Original Song • One Act Play • DND Campaign • Other/ more :) <u>Rubric (120pts)</u> • Word Choice & Vocabulary (20pts) • Voice & Style (20pts) • Ideas & Content (20pts) • Organization & Structure (20pts) • Audience & Author Purpose (20pts) • Format & Presentation (20pts) • Fluency & Flow (20pts) • Grammar & Mechanics (20pts)

Areas for Improvement & Other Thoughts:

My curriculum could benefit from more “real world” outcomes for each of the students’ projects and writing assignments. I know that this is linked to motivation as well as outcome, so I’d love to work on adding in ways to incorporate more contests or local opportunities for students to showcase their writing and get it out of the classroom and into the real world. I have considered looking into [NaNoWriMo](#), but since it’s only one semester, that would mean I would need to structure my curriculum differently for the two semesters I teach. I’m not against this idea, but I do worry that this may complicate things a bit.

Current Calendar:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Writing Unit
Aug 15-16	Summer Break	Summer Break	Summer Break	Welcome to Comp!	Back 2 School Bash!	Welcome Back
Aug 19-23	Canvas + Tech	Micro Bio	Classcraft	What Makes Good Writing	8 Traits	Intro Unit
Aug 26-30	Matching Game	Intro 1 + Descriptive	Diction + Paragraph	Austin's Butterfly	Peer Feedback	Unit 1: Descriptive
Sept 2-6	Labor Day	Paragraph Editing	Poetry 101	Poem	Peer Feedback	Unit 1: Descriptive
Sept 9-13	Poem & Paragraph (50pt) DUE	Class Share	Class Share	Class Share	Unit Reflection	Unit 1: Descriptive
Sept 16-20	Intro Unit 2 + Narrative	Examples + Brainstorm	Teacher PD	Structure + Outline	Outline	Unit 2: Narrative
Sept 23-27	Dialogue	Story	Story	Story	Peer Feedback	Unit 2: Narrative
Sept 30- Oct 4	Short Story (60pt) DUE	Class Share	Heart of a Highlander	Class Share	Class Share	Unit 2: Narrative
Oct 7-11	Unit Reflection	Audience & Author Purpose	Intro Unit 3 + Persuasive	Persuasive Planning Sheet	Pitch It! + Format & Pres.	Unit 3: Persuasive
Oct 14-18	Teacher PD	Petition OR Script	Petition OR Script	Peer Feedback	Petition OR Script	Unit 3: Persuasive
Oct 21-25	Petition OR Script (80pt) DUE	Class Share/ Vote	Class Share/ Vote	Class Share/ Vote	Unit Reflection	Unit 3: Persuasive
Oct 28- Nov 1	Intro Unit 4 + Expository	Research	PSAT	Grammar & Mechanics	Resume	Unit 4: Expository
Nov 4-8	Be The Boss	Resume (40pt) DUE	Fluency & Flow	Cover Letter	Be The Boss	Unit 4: Expository
Nov 11-15	Cover Letter (40pt) DUE	Interviews	Interviews	Interviews	Unit Reflection	Unit 4: Expository
Nov 18-22	Intro Unit 5: Student Choice	Strengths & Weaknesses	Brainstorm	Outline	Writing	Unit 5: ANY
Nov 25-29	Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving Break	(Thanksgiving)
Dec 2-6	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing	Peer Feedback	Unit 5: ANY
Dec 9-13	Revise	Final Project (160pt) DUE	Class Share	Class Share	Class Share	Unit 5: ANY
Dec 16-20	Final Reflection	Exams Periods 1 & 2	Exams Periods 3 & 4	Exams Periods 5 & 6	Exams Periods 7 & 8	Exam Week
Color Code:	Lesson	Activity	Writing	Project DUE	Unit Reflection	LHP Event

Note: Some days are a combination of a lesson and an activity, or may have some writing time in them as well. For the sake of color coding, I use the “primary” objective of the day as the highlighted option chosen.