

Creative Writing 1

Grades 10 - 12
Prerequisites: none
1 semester

Description

The goal of this course is to encourage and nurture the student's innate creativity. Students will study techniques used by professional writers and will be motivated with enticing writing activities designed to help them improve their skills while experiencing the pleasure of success. Writing may include plays, short stories, poetry, personal narratives, and various other creative modes.

Why This Course

The philosophy of teaching a creative writing course focuses on self-expression, craft development, and community building, achieved by guiding students to discover their unique voice, mastering fundamental literary techniques, and sharing work in a safe workshop environment.

Topics of Study

Note: Units are likely based on a defined, genre-specific product, such as a prose composition, a poetry collection, a one-act play, a multimodal project, etc. They often follow a process of theory to examples to practice.

Writers' Tools

Students will study and practice the tools of a writer, with a focus on diction and syntax, figurative language, imagery, dialogue, and more. Students will practice daily writing habits. Students will engage in a writer's workshop process to give feedback on their peers' compositions as well as receive feedback on their own. These tools will be embedded throughout the course and serve as the foundation for further topics of study.

Prose

Students will explore the craft of prose writing by learning how authors create engaging writing through vivid description, believable characters, meaningful conflict, and purposeful structure. Students will examine mentor texts to identify effective writing techniques before applying those skills to their own original narratives. Throughout the unit, students will develop their ability to write with clarity, creativity, and voice while participating in the writing process through drafting, peer workshop, revision, and reflection.

Poetry

Students will explore the craft of poetry writing by learning how poets create engaging writing through economy of language, unique word choice, strong metaphor, rhyme, meter, rhythm, etc. Students will be exposed to a variety of poetic forms, both rhyming and free verse, as well as more technically composed poems such as the villanelle or the sonnet. Throughout the unit, students will develop their ability to write with clarity, creativity, and voice while participating in the writing process through drafting, peer workshop, revision, and reflection.

Non-Traditional Forms

Students will explore non-traditional forms. This includes multiple possibilities that the teacher can select from, such as, but not limited to, multimodal writing, visuals, film, one-acts, etc. Throughout this unit, students will develop the ability to write in unique ways, while widening their view of forms of creative writing.

Note: This course includes the following research and composition requirements, which can be taught within any unit.

Research & Academic Composition

Students will analyze mentor texts, as a form of research, to explore the various approaches and tools that writers can use to create text and articulate how the authors are effective. By exploring a variety of mentor texts, students will be able to craft their own unique voice through a process of synthesizing model writers and identifying their own preferences.

Digital Composition

Students blend audio, visual elements, and text to transform their creative writing into engaging multimedia projects. By leveraging digital tools, viewers learn to express their unique interpretations of storytelling and share insightful commentary with contemporary audiences in a modern format.

District Provided Resources

Teacher-curated / created resources

Required Assessment

This course has no required assessments.

Course Number(s)

057130