

Creative Writing 1

Course Description: This course is designed to give students the opportunity to think and write creatively. My goal as the teacher of this course is to encourage you to love writing and to guide you as you hone your craft. It is through writing that life becomes more meaningful to me, and I hope to inspire the same instincts in you, that writing brings to me. Writing can clarify, heal, excite, encourage, remind, inspire, and make the world a better place. This class is the beginning for you to be a poet, a free-lance writer, a storyteller, an essayist, a non-fiction writer, or whatever you choose to become as a writer. There will be many options presented to you. Success in this class will depend on the ability to synthesize techniques studied in class with original thinking, employing the necessary grammar, usage, and punctuation to make the composition clear and precise. If you make the effort to write in this class you are assured a very good grade. This class is about exploring the different writing genres.

Class Expectations

1. Be Prepared.*Arrive on time with necessary materials:

- 3 ring binder with plenty of filler paper
 - Writing utensil—pen or pencil is fine (unless I request something different)
 - Any textbooks that are checked out to you
 - A spiral notebook or comp book (used **ONLY** for this English class)
 - A Laptop, tablet, flash drive or other technological devices that you feel are essential to the way you work; however, this is not a requirement.
- Pen/pencil/paper has worked for thousands of years...

2. Be Aware. Grading Policy: Grades are based on proficiency

Final grades are tabulated into percentages:

- A 84.5-100%** The student achieved the goals at an exceptional level.
B 69.5-84.4% The student achieved the goals at an above-average level.
C 49.5-69.4% The student has achieved the goals at a satisfactory level.
D 34.5-49.4% The student has achieved the goal at a level below proficiency.
F 0-34.4% The student has not achieved the goals at level deserving of credit.

Proficiency Rubric:	
4 –	Advanced/Mastery
3–	Proficient/Met
2–	Almost Proficient
1 –	Not Proficient
0 –	No Attempt

***All pieces** will be graded with the above proficiency rubric. These rubrics are based on the Common Core standards in language arts. More details will be given as per specific assignment, and that information will be posted individually on the website and the assignment itself.

***All final pieces are to be uploaded to Turnitin.com in the time allotted. Period.** You will create and register an individual account and will be shown how to utilize the website. Failure to upload the paper in the time allotted means I will not grade your paper.

***Rewrite Policy** -Writing is a process and sometimes we do not get it “right” the first time, hence the focus on proficiency. If students would like to rewrite or revise specific assignments for a better grade, they are welcome to do so. See me for specifics.

***LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN THIS CLASS. Adequate time will be provided and I am flexible enough to move deadlines if there is a compelling reason.**

3. Be Responsible.

*In this class you will be responsible for:

- Respecting the rights and needs of others
- Treating all property with respect

Acting in a safe and healthy way
Making a commitment to learning

4. **Be on Time.** West Salem's Tardy Policy will be followed to the letter, so make sure you are through the door when the bell rings.

5. **Be Sure.** Turn off and put away your phone unless we are using it for a specific activity.

Remember: In this class, whether you are TAG or not, you will have multiple opportunities to challenge yourself. Opportunity often comes disguised as hard work so take advantage.

How to succeed in Mr. Finck's Creative Writing class:

1. **Keep an Assignment sheet or planner:** By keeping an assignment sheet or planner you will be able to keep track of any missing assignments--that means no surprises!

2. **Absent work/Make up work for trips or extracurricular events:** It is your responsibility to come to me to get the work you missed. Check the blog for missed work or daily lesson plans:

<http://finckcreativewriting.blogspot.com/>

3. **Label every assignment correctly:** Name, Date, and Period of class

4. **Communicate regularly:** please come see me if you have any problems, either before or after school. You can also reach me via email at the following address:

bruey-finck_derek@salkeiz.k12.or.us

5. **Do Not Plagiarize:** do your own work. If you want to include someone else's work, cite it properly. The penalties for plagiarism (or for cheating of any kind) will be harsh in this class—usually a zero in the grade book with no opportunity to make up the assignment (per West Salem's student handbook).

Scope and Sequence:

Unit 1: Children's Literature (Comics/Graphic Novels also), basic storytelling, and poetry

Unit 2: An introduction to Short Stories, and poetry

Unit 3: An introduction to Creative Nonfiction, NaNoWriMo month (longer or alternative fiction like screenplays, blogs, songs, and modern drama) and poetry

Final assessment: Completion of final portfolio, peer review, reflection, and possible portfolio presentation

"I have read and understand the classroom expectations."

Parent's Signature

Student's Signature

Sign and Return to Mr. Finck by _____

Parents, if you would like instant communication please provide me your email:

@