

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE & COMPOSITION [CL]

*Can satisfy GA Dept of Education courses such as 23.06100, 23.06200, 23.0660
(Including Ninth Grade, Tenth Grade, Junior, & Senior Lit/Comp)*

Course Description: This is a core, skill-based course designed for any age or grade of high school student. The literature component explores units in nonfiction, short stories, visual media, speeches, novels, and poetry. Grammar is approached via analysis of how each student's writing parallels Standard American English, and remediation is tailored to each student's specific needs. Additionally, CL strengthens the student's ability to organize data and communicate it effectively to a designated audience through composition, group communication, and public speaking. Most classwork is hands-on and active, designed for those who like to be on their feet and engaging in practical writing and speaking activities, many with a real audience.

Primary Resources (Perrine text and *Outcasts United* are purchased by students):

- Laurence Perrine's *Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense*, Fifth Edition (purple cover), ISBN 0155511084. Text includes most works we will study by the likes of Orwell, Connell, Frost, King, Welty, Walker, Singer, Eliot, Yeats, Tolstoy, and Auden.
- *Outcasts United* and excerpts of contemporary nonfiction (the latter provided by instructor).
- Frank, Bob and Frank Hildy. *Speaker's Notebook: A Guide to Effective Public Speaking*. Minneapolis, MI: Burgess, 1982 (resourced by instructor, not for student purchase).
- *20 Outstanding SAT Essays*, College Board publication provided by instructor.

Content and Objectives:

1. The class will identify rhetorical devices in contemporary fiction and nonfiction, as well as literary analysis techniques suitable for any genre of literature.
2. The student will not only analyze literature but create some of his own.
3. The student will practice grammar and writing error correction by analyzing and correcting his own writing and that of his classmates. He will learn editing and revision skills.
4. The student will improve timed and non-timed essay writing skills.
5. Each student will learn parameters of practical writing such as the business letter, thank you note, and resume.
6. The student will demonstrate ability to analyze an SAT and ACT essay prompt and plan an appropriate response using actual prompts from past tests.
7. The student will learn means of creatively and accurately writing college and scholarship application essays using questions from "real sources." Older students can work on actual letters they will send.
8. Each student will research and work toward a final product of a four-to-six-page typed paper complete with outline, well organized and documented support, and MLA format.
9. The student will present the following speeches to the class: demonstration with poster/visual aid, persuasive with PowerPoint, and informative with white board.
10. The student will analyze and demonstrate the role of the visual aid and nonverbal skills in workplace and academic communication.
11. The student will demonstrate skills necessary to interview successfully for a job.
12. The student will explore methods of communicating and resolving issues within a small group.
13. The class will interact with guests from the workplace community, asking appropriate questions and writing thank you notes to speakers and mock interviewers.