

## **COURSE: GRADE 7-8 Writing**

### **OBJECTIVES WRITING**

- 1. Generate, gather, and organize ideas and information to write for an intended purpose and audience;**
- 2. Draft and revise their writing, improving creative writing using a variety of language**
- 3. Use editing, proofreading, and publishing skills and strategies, and knowledge of language conventions, to correct errors, refine expression, and present their work effectively;**
- 4. Reflect on and identify their strengths as writers, areas for improvement, and the strategies they found most helpful at different stages in the writing process.**

### **STUDY AIDS**

A complete set of photocopies and texts of the assigned tasks

**Paper and a pen or pencil for note-taking and writing exercises**

A college level dictionary

### **WEEK 1 –**

- **Personal narrative essay**
- Narrative tenses
- Identifying main idea
- Understanding audience and purpose

### **WEEK 2 –**

- Personal focus statement
- The essay question/task
- Brainstorming and outlining an essay
- Reading an example of a personal narrative
- Grammar: Count and uncount nouns/articles

### **WEEK 3 –**

- Point of view
- Introductions and hooks
- Describing a personality
- Pronoun reference

### **WEEK 4 -**

- Thesis statement
- Relative clauses and complex sentence structure
- Describing an event
- Writing about personal experiences

**WEEK 5 –**

- Describing a place/setting
- Supporting details: sensory details
- Show/ don't tell
- adjective order/commonly confused words: who/whom
- The body paragraph structure
- Topic sentences

**WEEK 6 –**

- Powerful Conclusion Paragraphs
- Transitions
- First draft of essay due
- Peer review/edit
- Effective sentences/ emphatic emphasis

**WEEK 7 –**

- Book Report
- Themes/characters and other novel devices
- Characteristics of a book report/ Identifying important information
- Outlining
- Second draft/proofreading

**WEEK 8 –**

- Final draft
- Rewriting tips
- Strong nouns/vivid verbs
- Punctuation review
- Peer review

**WEEK 9 –**

- Final book report due
- Rating a story and book
- Identifying weakness and strengths in a story
- Stating the story in one sentence
- Commonly confused words

**WEEK 10 –**

- **Mystery Story**
- Plot devices
- Finish writing a story

**WEEK 11 –**

- Plot devices: Foreshadowing, Red herring, Chekov's Gun
- Possessive nouns
- Paragraph breaks
- Opening scene; opening line, opening sentence, opening paragraph
- Narrative hook and Titles

**WEEK 12 –**

- Inferences
- Misplaced/dangling modifiers
- Plot diagram/outlining a story
- Setting: descriptive writing; figurative language: simile-metaphor

**WEEK 13 –**

- Creating plot twists and surprise endings
- Linking/action verbs
- Other endings: cliffhanger, deus ex machine
- Climax/anti-climax
- Sequencing a story: nonlinear narrative; reverse chronology; *In medias res*, cutup

**WEEK 14 –**

- Developing Characters – creating an antagonist/villain
- Punctuating dialogue
- Character: Dialogue: idiomatic speech
- Interesting dialogue/speaking at cross-purposes

**WEEK 15 –**

- Literary Device: Poetic Justice/Irony
- Distracting shifts: Verb tense shifts
- Grammar: verb tenses
- Pacing a story- making it longer vs. making it shorter
- Run-on sentences

**WEEK 16 –**

- Proofreading tips/exercises
- Subject-verb agreement
- First draft of Mystery Story due
- Peer review/edit

**WEEK 17 –**

- Proofreading a story
- Distracting shifts
- Writing a query letter
- Writing a brief story logline/summary/bio

**WEEK 18 –**

- Second draft of Mystery Story due
- Varying sentences
- Similes
- Peer review

**WEEK 19 –**

- Overview compare and contrast essay
- Comparing/contrasting two pictures exercise
- Block method vs. point-by-point method
- Fact vs. opinion
- Sentence structure: complex sentences; subordinating conjunctions; conjunctive adverbs; transitional

**WEEK 20 –**

- Contrasting and comparing with sentences
- Introductions and hooks
- Thesis statement for comparison essay
- Concluding paragraphs
- Commas

**WEEK 21 –**

- Understanding Paragraphs: Unity, coherence, faulty starts
- Topic sentences – supporting sentences
- Formal vs informal language

**WEEK 22 –**

- Topic sentences
- Hyperbole
- Research tips
- Final draft of Comparison essay due

**WEEK 23 –**

- Peer review
- Letter writing Block/Modified Block style
- Letter of Complaint
- Third Conditional if clauses

**WEEK 24 –**

- Second draft
- Punctuation review
- Final review
- Grammar Test

**WEEK 25 –**

- Writing Poetry
- Concrete poetry
- Limericks/tongue twisters
- Simile/metaphor
- Publication