



SEAAT ACADEMY

Học Viện Tư Duy Chủ Động Đông Nam Á

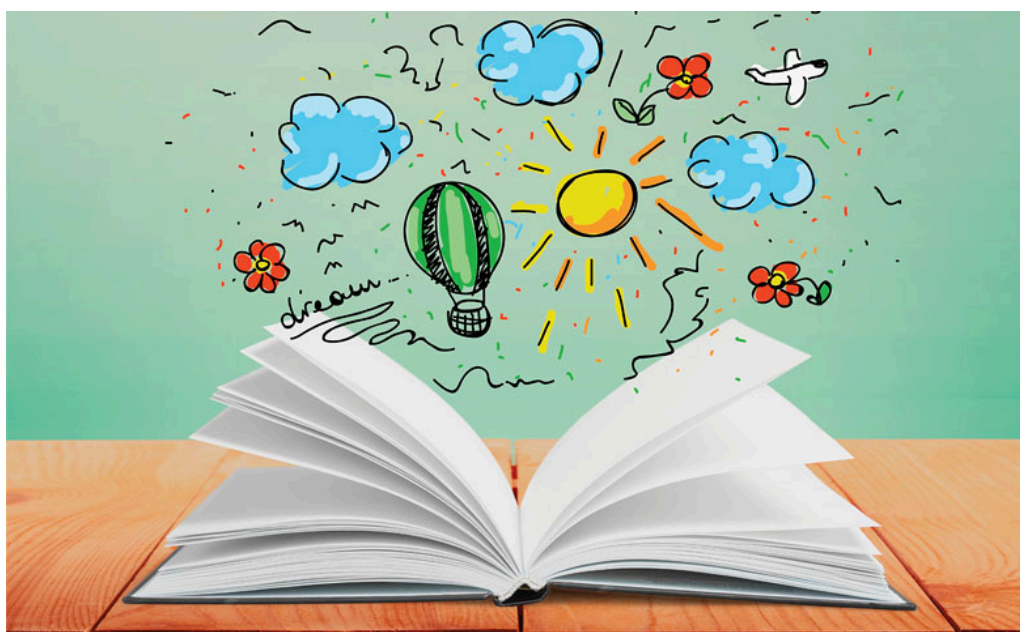
Kỹ Năng Tự Học, Thành Công Tự Tạo

10 Ngõ 20, Nguyễn Công Hoan, Ba Đình, Hà Nội

Email: seaat@mtgvietnam.com

Course: Application Writing

Foundation Unit: Know Thyself



Overview

Welcome to the course Application Writing, where you will build the foundation for writing your personal statement through accumulating different writing techniques, reading various stories, and intensive reflective and writing exercises. Through this process, you will get to know yourself, your values, and your perspectives better, thereby articulating a personal story that can make a statement about who you are.

The foundation unit – Know Thyself – will ask you to experience different stories and perspectives and engage in the philosophical discussion these stories propose, through which your viewpoints and values become more crystalized and definite. To complete this goal, it is required that you go through all the stories listed in the pre-course reading and follow the instructions written in the learning outcomes and why/use session carefully.

Learning Outcomes

- **How to tell a story:** These readings will help you familiarize yourself with the structure and details of a story – which will come in handy when you have to tell your own story later in the course
- **Self-exploration through the exercise I see – I think – I wonder:** While you read each of these stories, go through the exercise below to get your interpretation of the story

- **Step 1: Your observation: I see:** What do you see in the story? write down any details or structure that catch your attention
- **Step 2: Empathizing with the story: I think:** What do you think is going on? eg: any feelings, emotions, perspectives, or values expressed by the character you think is shown
- **Step 3: Finding a “So what” of the story that matters to you:** I wonder: What did the details in the previous sections I see/ I think make you wonder about? eg: maybe a bigger picture the story is trying to draw, a different subject the story wants you to think about

Pre-course Readings

Note: Please read the why/use section to understand the context of each story before diving into them (especially the why/use of reading 3) and apply the exercise I see – I think – I wonder as you explore these stories

Reading 1: [Ursula Le Guin – The ones who walk away from Omelas](#)

Why/Use: Ursula Le Guin is renowned for her profound and thought-provoking speculative fiction. *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas* is a powerful exploration of moral and ethical dilemmas, encapsulating the complexities of societal happiness and individual suffering. Le Guin's story is a masterclass in creating a rich, immersive setting that raises deep philosophical questions without providing easy answers. As you read this story, focus on how Le Guin uses vivid descriptions and moral ambiguity to provoke reflection and critical thinking. Observe how she engages the reader's imagination and emotions to leave a lasting impact, a technique that can significantly enhance the effectiveness of your own writing.

Reading 2: [Ted Chiang – The Story of Your Life](#)

Why/Use: Ted Chiang is celebrated for his intricate and intellectually stimulating science fiction. *The Story of Your Life* exemplifies his ability to intertwine complex scientific concepts with deeply human emotions. This story delves into themes of language, perception, and destiny, demonstrating Chiang's skill in blending technical detail with profound narrative depth. As you go through the story, you may note how the intricate structure and pacing contribute to the unfolding of the story's themes, which can offer an interesting model for organizing your thoughts and experiences effectively in your writing.

Reading 3: [Chekov – The Schoolmistress](#)

Why/Use: Anton Chekov is known and remembered in world literature as the master of short stories. All his stories live by his narrative principle – Chekov's gun – where any details and elements introduced in the story will be meaningful and significant within the story. To Chekov, introducing any detail in a short story is like presenting a gun in a story and this gun will eventually be fired at some point – or else the readers will wonder about the point and relevance of the details. This principle is critical in your personal statement where the word count is limited and every word matters, so let's learn it from the master himself. While you read this story, pay attention to the details he presents throughout the story and see how they gain significance later on within the story. While the 2 previous stories can be more familiar to our modern world, this story is set in a time when the reality is harsh and there is little chance to escape from their difficult condition. Keeping this setting in mind while going through the story will help you better understand and empathize with the main character.