

Grade 9 Writing Lab

2015-2016

KIS Jeju

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Course Overview:

The major objectives of this writing workshop are to develop confidence and skills in the basic elements of writing, research, thinking, speaking, listening, and analyzing. We will focus on grammar and mechanics. Grammar includes all the principles that guide the structure of sentences and paragraphs: the flow of language, how we use words in different situations, and the patterns that govern language. Mechanics includes the ways we punctuate what we are trying to say in our writing: punctuation, capitalization, paragraphing, and formatting. The writing lab is a place to experiment and practice writing for a variety of purposes and audiences. We will have lessons together to learn important skills or strategies for the writing genre we're working on, but the majority of the class time will spent writing on your own to experiment with the skill or strategy, collaborating with peers, or conferencing with the teacher.

Skills and Knowledge:

In this class, students will strive to improve English grammar and mechanics throughout the year. When they write, they will use narrative techniques, use persuasive techniques, make precise word choices, create vivid imagery using sensory language and descriptive details, conduct research, incorporate evidence and explanation to support claims, and organize ideas in a cohesive, clear manner.

Resources and Texts:

Students will use excerpts from the following texts during class:

- *Building Academic Language, Second Edition* by Jeff Zwiars
- *Paragraphs for High School* by Don and Jenny Killgallon
- *Grammar for High School* by Don and Jenny Killgallon
- *Sentence Composing for High School* by Don Killgallon
- *Effective Academic Writing 2* by Alice Savage and Patricia Mayer

Course Scope and Sequence:

The year will be divided into four units. Each unit ends with a summative piece of writing that requires students to employ the skills they have practiced during class writing workshops.

1. Unit One: Narrative Writing
 - You will use narrative elements to create a story to accompany a piece of artwork. Using an interesting hook and techniques such as dialogue, imagery, anecdotes, and pacing, you will engage your readers and reflect on substantive ideas.
2. Unit Two: Informational Writing
 - You will write a Wikipedia article to inform readers about a topic of interest. You will conduct research, connect ideas fluidly and in an organized manner, and structure informational writing with appropriate categories (chapters, headings, paragraphs).
3. Unit Three: Literary Analysis
 - You will read a novel of your choice and write a critical book review to be posted on Goodreads.com. You will determine central ideas or themes within texts and draw conclusions or comparisons about them, analyze how characters develop, and write strong thesis statements that are supported with relevant evidence from the text.
4. Unit Four: Persuasive Writing
 - You will write a persuasive article about a controversial issue affecting students today. You will research both sides of the issue, choose a side, present your claims and support them with evidence and explanation. To accomplish this, you must employ rhetorical strategies used for persuasion.

Grading and Reporting:

The academic year is divided into two semesters. Progress reports will be issued mid-semester with report cards being issued at the end of each semester. Reporting is based on the assessment of the DRAGONS and the benchmarks for each specific course.

The following benchmark qualifiers are used:

4- Exceeding	In-depth inferences and applications that go beyond the standard.
3- Meeting	No major errors or omissions regarding any of the information and/or processes that are stated in the standard.
2- Approaching	No major errors regarding the simpler details and process but major errors and omissions regarding the more complex ideas and processes.
1- Beginning	A partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes and some of the more complex ideas and processes.

Letter grades are used to summarize the assessment of benchmark performance in each course:

4	Exceeding	A, A-
3	Meeting	B+, B, B-
2	Approaching	C+, C, C-
1	Beginning	D+, D, D-
I	Incomplete	F

Final grades will be determined as follows:

40% Formative 40% Summative 10% DRAGONS 10% Semester Exam

Class Website:

Class policies, assignments, and instructional materials can be found on our class website at <http://kiswriting.weebly.com/>