

IDEA Writing

Course Number: ELA3004

Grade level: 9–12

Credits: 0.5

Prerequisite Courses: None

Course Description

Motivating students in grades 9–12 to become more articulate and effective writers, ELA3004 offers hands-on experience writing personal reflections, definition essays, research essays, persuasive essays, informative essays, and literary analysis essays. Offering targeted lessons on reputable research, effective communication, solid grammar, and compelling style, this one-semester course utilizes the Six Traits of Effective Writing as an overarching framework. Students enrolled in this course develop the skills necessary to evaluate one's own writing and articulate and apply writing and researching strategies. In addition, students will get further practice applying the grammatical rules of Standard American English in formal writing.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Practice academic writing, including research, presenting evidence, and developing voice and style
- Examine the Six Trait Writing Steps and apply them to writing development
- Practice writing persuasive, informative, and literary analysis essays
- Develop writing skills, from the choosing the right word to shaping sentences, paragraphs, and the entire essay
- Apply advanced grammar rules and techniques

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course would. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on the following activities:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, e-mail, chat, and system announcements. Through this communication with your teacher, you will monitor your progress through the course and improve your learning by reviewing material that was challenging for you.

You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face-to-face, as you do the following:

- Collaborate on projects
- Ask and answer questions in your peer group
- Develop speaking and listening skills

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Assignments	10%
Essays	50%
Lesson Quizzes	20%
Unit Tests	0%
Cumulative Exams	20%
Additional	0%

Scope and Sequence

When you log into the Virtual Classroom, you can view the entire course map, which provides a scope and sequence of all topics you will study. Clicking a lesson's link in the course map leads to a page listing instructional activities, assignments, and learning objectives specific to that lesson. The units of study are summarized below.

Unit 1: Writing: Convention and Skills

Unit 2: Writing: Rhetoric