

# ***Creative Writing Seminar***

***Thursdays***

***10th Grade: 7th Period***

***Miss Nogal***

In this writing seminar, we will be exploring the six fundamental steps of the writing process in order to produce well-written and full developed essays.

We will be working on one essay for the first 5 weeks of the seminar, in order for you to fully grasp each step of the writing process.

After the initial essay, we will work on each essay and type of writing [we will be doing a few types of short stories as well] for approximately 2 weeks per piece of writing. Please expect that after the first essay, you will be expected to do a lot of work at home on each piece you do, and that not completing assigned homework steps will cause you to fall behind on your work and to receive poor scores on your essays.

**Each essay and piece of writing you produce will be graded on a rubric of 1-6, as SAT essays are scored, but the final grade will include having completed every step of the essay.**

**Each step before the final essay will be worth two points -**

1. *the concept map (2)*
2. *the outline (2)*
3. *the handwritten rough draft (2)*
4. *the revision draft that is e-mailed (2)*
5. *the editing draft that is e-mailed (2)*
6. *the final copy that is e-mailed (2)*

***In addition to these points, the use of the MLA Heading will count as two points.***

***The score for each essay in this class will be out of 20 points.***

**The essays which we will be covering through the scope of this course are:**

- 1. Narrative**
- 2. Descriptive**
- 3. Expository**
- 4. Compare and Contrast**
- 5. Cause and Effect**
- 6. Persuasive**
- 7. Illustrative**

The total amount of points that you can earn for the essays is 140. In addition to the point based on your academic completion of the essays, I will add 60% of the participation grade you earn, using the same system as in the science classes. This will bring the total of available points to 200.

**In order to pass this course, you will need to have earned a total of 140 points out of the total 200 available points.**

**January 28**

**February 4, 11, 18 and 25**

The writing process - Writing a Narrative Essay

**Due via e-mail by Thursdays, February 25.**

**March 5, 11**

Writing a Descriptive Essay

**Due via e-mail by Friday, March 12**

**March 18, 25**

Writing an Expository Essay

**Due via e-mail by Friday March 26**

**April 15, 22**

Writing a Compare and Contrast Essay

**Due via e-mail by Friday, April 23**

**April 29, May 6**

Writing a Cause and Effect Essay

**Due via e-mail by Friday, May 7**

**May 13, 20**

Writing a Persuasive Essay

**Due via e-mail by Friday, May 21**

**May 27**

**June 3**

Writing an Illustrative Essay

**Due via e-mail by Friday, June 4**

**Final assignment: Student's Choice**

**June 10** [Assignment is given]

**June 17** [Due that Thursday via e-mail by 2:20 p.m.]

# **Six Steps of the Writing Process:**

## **Step #1: Prewriting**

This step involves choosing a subject, brainstorming, planning, and researching. It includes forming a concept map about your topic.

You will be creating both a mind map/concept map/web in this step that will be saved with your essay.

## **Step #2: Making an outline**

This step is when you make an outline organizing what you might want your essay to look like.

You will be learning the proper way to make an outline, and blank outlines will be available for you to use. This is to be saved with the completed essay as well.

## **Step #3: Writing the First Draft**

This step is the initial writing phase. Please do not worry about grammar or organization of your ideas just yet. The main point of this step is to get all of your information and ideas down on paper.

You will always write this first draft on looseleaf by hand. This will be handed in along with your completed essay.

## **Step #4: Revising**

This step involves rethinking, reorganizing, and making additions, deletions, and substitutions. In this step, you will do your own revisions FIRST, then you will type up what you have changed.

This is a "silent" and "unseen" phase of this course. Once you complete your first set of revisions, you will e-mail the typed draft to Miss Nogal at ***kisherna@gmail.com*** so that she may continue to help you revise/organize.

### **Step #5: Editing**

This step involves correcting spelling, punctuation, grammar, paragraphing, etc. Once again, you will do the grammar edits on your own and then save them. You will then e-mail what you have edited to Miss Nogal at ***kisherna@gmail.com*** in order for Miss Nogal to make suggestions on what can be corrected.

### **Step #6: Publishing**

In this step, you will have finalized your essay. You will use the MLA heading on your essay.

You will e-mail the final copy to Miss Nogal at ***kisherna@gmail.com*** and you will also turn in the handwritten concept map, outline and rough draft.

Note: Good writing always has a beginning, middle, and end. Sometimes this formula will require a formal introduction, body, and conclusion, but often an informal introduction to a topic is acceptable.

Each paragraph needs a beginning, middle, and end, also. The "beginning" must be the topic sentence, the "middle" must include examples or details to enhance the topic sentence, and the "end" must be a concluding or summary sentence. Be sure to include transitions between paragraphs to allow your writing to flow smoothly from one idea to another.