

Essay Writing Syllabus

Teacher: Melissa Valk

Class time: Mon & Wed 9:30 – 10:30 AM

Schedule: 6/13 – 8/3 (15 classes)

Class Description

In this class, students will learn how to compose an essay. We will practice writing thesis statements, write small essays based on short articles, and ultimately read one book, writing a final essay using all of the techniques we have learned over the course of the class. This course will examine the nature, history, and structure of essays; the various types of essays; and provide a refresher course in English grammar, focusing on the parts of speech and rules for good syntax. Further, examples will be provided of good writing and poor writing, as well as common mistakes to avoid when creating an essay. When completed, this series of lessons should enable the student to better understand how good essays are written and how to go about writing them for academic use.

Schedule:

Class 1: Review basic essay composition; write a short essay

Class 2: Focus on writing thesis statements and proper essay vocabulary

Class 3: Begin reading the book that I will assign for the class; writing exercises

Class 4: Types of essays: analysis and argumentative

Class 5: Read short story in class; answer essay-like prompts

Class 6: Continue writing essay questions on short story

Class 7: Read “The Road Not Taken” and write short essay

Class 8: Continue essay; general Q&A

Class 9: Read poem and close read

Class 10: Finish close reading; share responses

Class 11: Argumentative essay writing; practice

Class 12: Analysis essay writing; practice

Class 13: Workshop

Class 14: Final paper due

Class 15: Class overview; review of final essays