



Essentials in Writing®
Where Students Learn to Write

Essentials in Writing – Virtual Classroom
Course Syllabus – Mrs. Susan York
Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
Master of Science in Elementary Education
Certified in Special Education - Cross Categorical
Certified Adult Education and Literacy

Welcome to the Virtual Classroom for a systematic, methodical approach to writing for all students. I am Mrs. York, an educator with over 30 years of experience and your instructor for the 2021-2022 school year. Please read the course outline carefully and share it with your parents. This syllabus will provide you with important details that you will need to be successful in this course. My number one goal is to teach you to write well and with ease! This will involve following a step-by-step, systematic approach to writing with short, daily writing assignments. That is my goal, but you must do the work. For this to work, you need to follow the syllabus, participate in weekly and daily assignments, meet course deadlines, and work hard.

Contact Information

Email me at VirtualClass@EssentialsInWriting.com. I check my email frequently and enjoy interaction with my students. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Course Policies

- 1) The Virtual Writing Course will be conducted on Zoom. Each week you will join me at the designated time to participate in the virtual class. During the virtual class you will type responses to my questions in the chat bar. Don't worry. No one can see your responses except me.
- 2) All DAILY (mini) assignments will be submitted through email conversations. [You will have a different teacher who will provide you with feedback on each of your daily assignments.](#) Once your teacher receives your mini assignment, a response will follow shortly. In the response he/she will provide you with affirmation, additional guidance (if needed), and the mini assignment for the next day. This process will repeat.
- 3) Final copies will be submitted as a Microsoft Word document following these criteria:
 - double-spaced
 - 14 pt. Times New Roman font
 - indented first line of each paragraph
 - the following information, in this order, at the top left-hand corner of the page:
 - your full name (e.g., Fred Flintstone)
 - the lesson for which the composition is submitted (e.g., Expository Paragraph, Personal Essay, Persuasive Essay, etc.) [Note the BOLD PRINT in an assignment for the lesson title.](#)
 - the date of submission (e.g., 3 October 2021)

PLEASE NOTE: You will not submit final copies unless instructed to do so.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Please DO NOT plagiarize. Plagiarism means turning in papers that somebody else wrote, copying passages (sentences, paragraphs, or phrases) that somebody else wrote without citing the source (where you got it from), or turning in a paper that you wrote for another class.

Course Description

The Virtual Class for Struggling Writers focuses on teaching students to follow the writing process to produce interesting, well-written paragraphs and essays of the descriptive, expository, and persuasive genre.

Course Outline*

SENTENCE STRUCTURE AND WORD CHOICE

- Week 1 – Welcome and **Writing Sample** Requested
- Week 2 – **Independent and Dependent Clause 1**
- Week 3 – **Independent and Dependent Clause 2**
- Week 4 – **Compound Sentences and Errors 1** (comma splice and run-on)
- Week 5 – **Compound Sentences and Errors 2** (comma splice and run-on)
- Week 6 – **Complex Sentences and Errors 1** (fragments)
- Week 7 – **Complex Sentences and Errors 2** (fragments)

PARAGRAPHS

- Week 8 – Write a **Descriptive Paragraph** (organize and draft)
- Week 9 – Write an **Expository Paragraph** (organize and draft)
- Week 10 – Write a **Persuasive Paragraph** (organize and draft)
- Week 11 – Write an **Expository Paragraph** (organize and draft)
- Week 12 – Write a **Persuasive Paragraph** (organize and draft)

Week 13 – **Thanksgiving Break**

ESSAYS

- Week 14 – **Introduction to Essays 1** (Building a Thesis and Body Topics)
- Week 15 – **Introduction to Essays 2** (Building a Thesis and Body Topics)
- Week 16 – **Introduction to Essays 3** (Building a Thesis, Body Topics, and Body Paragraphs)

Week 17-18 – **Christmas Break**

- Week 19-20 – Write a **Personal Essay** (Thesis, Body, Opening/Closing)
- Week 21-22 – Write an **Expository Essay** (Thesis, Body, Opening/Closing)
- Week 23-24 – Write a **Persuasive Essay** (Thesis, Body, Opening/Closing)
- Week 25-26 – Write an **Expository Essay** (Thesis, Body, Opening/Closing)

Week 27 – **Spring Break (no class on Wednesday, March 2)**

- Week 28-29 – Write a **Personal Essay** (including Revise and Edit/Publish)
- Week 30-31 – Write an **Expository Essay** (including Revise and Edit/Publish)
- Week 32-33 – Write a **Personal Essay** (including Revise and Edit/Publish)
- Week 34-35 – Write an **Expository Essay** (INDEPENDENT) Feedback in Milestones

Week 36 – ESSAY ASSESSMENT

**Class schedule subject to change at the discretion of the teacher.*