



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 2022-2023 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. To be successful in this class, you will need to follow the syllabus, attend class each week (or watch the class recording), complete assignments and submit them on time, and participate in class discussions.

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 assignments will be submitted through email conversations. [You will have a different teacher, your Teaching Assistant, who will provide you with feedback on each of your daily assignments.](#) Once your teaching assistant receives your assignment, a response will follow shortly. In the response he/she will provide you with affirmation, feedback, and additional guidance (if needed), This process will repeat each week.
- 3) Once we begin the Essay Units of Study, final copies will be submitted as a Microsoft Word or Google 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 2022)

PLEASE NOTE: You will receive specific, written instructions (via email) each time a composition/essay needs to be submitted.

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. You would only be cheating

yourself by plagiarizing. You will grow as a writer by submitting your own work -even if it includes errors – so that your teachers can provide you with meaningful feedback. Our goal is growth, not perfection!

Course Description

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

Course Outline*

First day of class: September 7, 2022

Last day of class: May 12, 2023

SENTENCE STRUCTURE AND WORD CHOICE

Week 1 – Welcome and **Writing** Sample Requested

Week 2 – Independent and Dependent Clause (**IC DC**)

Week 3 – **Compound Sentences** (Review IC DC)

Week 4 – **Sentence Errors** (comma splice and run-on) – in Compound Sentences

Week 5 – **Complex Sentences**

Week 6 – Sentence Errors (**fragments**) – Review Complex Sentences

Week 7 – Sentence Structure and Word Choice **Review**

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 – **Thanksgiving Break**

ESSAYS

Week 13 – **Introduction to Essays 1** (Building a Thesis and Planning Body Topics/Paragraphs)

Week 14 – **Introduction to Essays 2** (Planning Opening and Closing Paragraphs)

Week 15 – **Introduction to Essays 3** (Putting it all together: Thesis, Body Paragraphs, and Opening/Closing Paragraphs)

Week 16-17 – **Christmas Break**

Week 18-19–20 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 -Begin **Personal Essay** (Thesis and Body Paragraphs)

Week 28 – **Spring Break (no class on Wednesday, March 8)**

Week 29 – Complete the **Personal Essay** (Opening & Closing Paragraphs, 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 – Last day of Class – Final ESSAY ASSESSMENT

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