

English Creative Writing Syllabus

Instructor: Milly Chen

Weekly Classes on Wednesdays, 7:30 PM EST

Course Description

This course is suitable for middle school students interested in different types of creative writing and learning more writing techniques. Creative writing falls into a variety of categories, including poetry, editorial, fiction, memoir and journal. This writing course will focus on memoir and editorial writing after concepts are introduced, which help students to explore themselves better through brainstorming. Hook, introduction, transitions, body paragraph, and conclusion will all be covered and students will be taught how to write their piece by showing examples from other people's excellent work. Students are encouraged to share new ideas in class and inspire each other, don't be afraid to speak out personal opinions. There will be an assignment after class for me to evaluate how students improve after learning their writing skills, however, there are no word limits. Without the pressure of reaching a certain number of words, students have more freedom to be themselves and follow their hearts. I believe students will be prepared for high school creative writing class when they gain more knowledge about memoir and editorial.

Meeting Agenda

6/15 Meeting 1: Introduction to creative writing

- How is it different from academic writing

Types focused in this course

- Memoir
 - What is considered a memoir? (definition)
 - memoir vs biography
 - Facts and example
- Editorial writing
 - What is an editorial?
 - Why is it important?
 - Facts and example

6/22 Meeting 2: Start with memoir

- Provide memoir topics
- Think about choice based on the experience

6/29 Meeting 3: Memoir structure (Narrative)

- How to structure a memoir?
- Elements that make a memoir good

- What are the best ways to structure a memoir?

7/8 Meeting 4: Memoir Tips (Part I)

- Engage the reader from the first word
- Share the authentic story with the world
- Put readers in your shoes

7/15 Meeting 5: Memoir Tips (Part II)

- Include more than just your story
- Create an emotional journey
- Show your growth

7/22 Meeting 6: Editorial Writing

- Introduce different types of editorial writing
 - Interpretive
 - Critical
 - Persuasive
 - Praising
- Parts in persuasive editorial

7/29 Meeting 7: Editorial Writing Component

- An objective explanation of the issue
- A timely news angle
- The author refutes the same question from opposite points of view
- A good editor should take a positive approach and make the situation better by criticizing constructively and offering solutions.
- A firm and concise conclusion that powerfully sums up the author's arguments

8/5 Meeting 8: List available topics

- Find a relevant topic
- Have a solid opinion
- Research the evidence and create an outline

8/12 Meeting 9: Editorial Writing Tips

- Pick a significant topic that has a current news angle and would interest readers.
- State your opinion briefly in the form of a thesis statement
- Explain the issue objectively as a reporter would and tell why this situation is important
- Give opposing viewpoint first with its quotations and facts
- Concede a point of the opposition — they must have some good points you can acknowledge that would make you look rational.

- Restates your thesis statement in conclusion.
- Never use "I"

8/19 Meeting 10: Basic techniques that can be applied

- Metaphor
- Personification
- Foreshadowing