

Argyle Secondary School

2023-4

Writing Twelve Outline

What We Will Do:

In Writing Twelve we will explore different genres and writing styles; as well, you will improve your writing skills and confidence (style and structure). We will work towards the type of writing it takes to do well in the workplace, college, university, professional writing (adult life in general), as well as creative, more experimental and personal writing.

How it's done

This course relies upon your cooperation and maturity. You are expected to act like adults; that is, as peers and colleagues for each other. The success of this class depends as much upon your attitude and willingness to expend positive energy as it does upon my teaching. Attendance and respect are important. Generally, each unit will begin with a large portion of the class time devoted to teaching the genre and understanding the examples given. As the unit progresses, there will be less teaching and more writing. We will work towards developing a good rough draft in class. Each unit ends with one day for peer editing (due date for rough drafts) and one day for a workshop (the final due date).

Peer Editing

The day before the final due date is for peer editing. Each student will bring his/her rough draft and have a minimum of two students peer edit his/her work. This is beneficial for both the editor and the writer as the editor improves his/her editing skills, which in turn improves his/her writing skills. It also helps inspire more ideas. Of course, the final product will become more polished and the author will also see what other people's expectations are. Marks are awarded for having a completed rough draft.

Workshopping

The final day of a unit is devoted to workshopping. Each student will workshop at least one piece. (There will be a sign up sheet: first come = first choice.) The workshopers will email me a polished copy of their assignment ahead of time, which I will photocopy for the class. The class

will read the work and give both constructive and positive feedback. We will address such questions as: What is the author trying to accomplish? What means have been used to accomplish that? Are these means sufficient? What needs to be here that isn't? Can the work be improved upon? Has the author reached his/her target audience? Comments are made only about the work and never about the author. This is *constructive* criticism. Our ultimate goal is to make the piece the best it can be (to be published or even win a contest). Though workshopping is a little nerve-racking, it's also one of the most valuable experiences in the course. The class receives marks for actively (vocally) participating.

Evaluation

Marks will be weighted as follows:

1. Workbook/Free-writes – 10%
2. Core Assignments (Portfolio) – 60%
3. Classroom Work – 30%

Core Assignments

Each assignment is worth 30 marks with the exception of the *Children's Book*, which is worth 60 marks. All polished assignments will have a specific due date. Each unit is approximately ten days long. You must complete all assignments in order to pass the course. We will do a selection of the following, plus anything else we think is worthy:

1. **Short Story**
2. **Memoir**
3. **Essay Writing**
4. **Poetry**
5. **Screen or Stage Play**
6. **Podcast**
7. **Children's Book**
8. **Your Choice.** You may hand in doubles of any of these genres, or you may hand in genres we have not studied. For example: science fiction, mystery or fantasy stories; first chapters of novels; a screen play; second and third acts for your one act play; restaurant, album, concert, T.V. or play reviews; a satirical piece (*The Onion* article) the list continues. **You must consult with me;** I may have guidelines, suggestions or examples to share. Remember, three poems counts as one full assignment. Another children's book would count as two because of the artwork involved. ****If you were**

unhappy with one of your marks, you may do a second “your choice” to replace one of your marks.

Workbook/Free-write Duotang

Your workbook is where you write your ideas and daily class activities. I will check your workbook for completion **every peer editing day**. Missed classes are NOT an excuse to have missing workbook entries. Your workbook is an important source of writing ideas for your drafts. It is the first step in the writing process. Most of your learning, thinking, and progress take place in your workbook. Your daily entries/activities should be sincere, thoughtful and carefully written, whether they are considerations of a topic or records of scenes and events with lots of descriptive detail. Make sure you include a date, title and the *number* (which I will give you) for each entry. Your mark will be based on quantity **(it must be clear that you’ve been working on it the whole semester)** and sincerity (thoughtfulness).

Commonplace Book

(Bonus/Enrichment) This should be separate from your journal, handouts, drafts, and portfolio. I recommend a book with special paper that’s attractive for you to touch and look at. This is where you briefly respond to different authors’ works and ideas about how they fit into your life and your writing. It is your *inspiration* book. You will include specific references to other works and significant quotes. The quotes may be of philosophical interest, or may just be excellent examples of fine workmanship. Comment on why you chose these quotes and be sure to include the date and cite the book you’re referring to. Your commonplace book will be due the last week of classes; I will review it while performing an exit interview.

Drafts

Each of your core assignments will go through several drafts to reach the polished state you desire for marking. You will learn to self-edit and peer edit. Your draft receives completion marks on peer editing day. A polished piece of work is one that has been through two or three sets of editing and has VERY FEW grammatical and technical errors (if any). Keep a hard copy of your drafts in your binder in case I would like to see your process.

Your Role

- Come to class every day with your workbook and your binder. Your binder is like your textbook – it has all your examples, notes and holds your inventories, drafts and pieces in progress.
- Write every day and finish pieces of writing.
- Find topics you care about – there's a lot of room for individualism, even if the genre is specific, it shouldn't be limiting.
- Take risks as a writer – try new topics, techniques and skills.
- Be mature – accept constructive criticism and try not to take it personally – this is the only way to grow as a writer.
- Know that reading is part of writing – consider the authors who came before you!
- Maintain your “skills list,” “writing inventory,” and “editing checklists.”
- Maintain your finished work in your permanent folder.
- Take care of the resources I've given you.
- Treat others with respect.
- Be positive and helpful with your colleagues.
- Discover what writing can do for you.

My Role

- Discover what tools you need as a writer.
- Take you seriously (but not without some humour).
- Grade your finished writing based on your growth and effort as a writer.
- Promote a “safe” writing environment where you feel good about sharing your ideas and taking risks.
- Help you learn specific editing and proofreading skills.
- Be your final editor.
- Give you opportunities to enter contests and publish your writing.
- Read aloud excellent and interesting examples.
- Help you discover what writing can do for you.

A note about laptops: Laptops are acceptable, but I must see that you are on task. If I see you visiting unrelated websites, I will ask you not to bring your laptops back. Also, when I check workbooks, I want to see the hard copies. Please keep your workbooks in order, in a duotang or binder, so I can see them on peer editing day.

My email: whebbourn@sd44.ca