

Creative Writing

Class: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00-1:50 p.m. CST

Teacher Talk: Wednesday at 3:00-3:30 p.m. CST

Email: Email through Canvas OR asaare@fpeusa.org

Creative Writing is designed to develop students into mature and confident writers. You'll learn to write well, from first word to final draft, through the study of persuasive communication and creative writing. Your creativity won't be dampened by stilted formulas and busy work; rather, you'll learn how to create content that is both original and engaging through intriguing exercises and lively class interaction. In addition to this, you'll be immersed in works from master writers so you'll see the elements of excellent writing in action. Through this you'll accumulate skills that will order your thoughts, fine-tune your writing process, and allow the expression of your ideas in compelling and effective ways.

I highly encourage you to contact me at anytime with questions or concerns. I check my messages multiple times a day and will do my best to respond within 24 hours. You can also talk to me during my "Teacher Talk" time, although this isn't required by any means.

Writing is work. It takes deliberation, discipline, and perseverance—characteristics that don't come easy to humans. These ideals must be cultivated in each of us. Forge ahead through the challenge this might present to you with the knowledge that it can be done! It's my great privilege to go beside you as you grow as thinkers and writers. I am excited to get to know you, and I hope that you are looking forward to the challenges and rewards ahead just as much as I am!

Texts:

The Creative Writer Level 3: Building Your Craft, ISBN 9781933339573

Paragraphs for High School, ISBN 9780325042534

The Argument Builder, ISBN 9781600510267

Grading:

I will drop the lowest three scores each semester (excluding any large writing assignments/projects or tests).

Attendance:

Please take note: Classroom discussion and instruction will prove invaluable to your understanding of the subject. In addition, there'll be many opportunities to workshop your pieces in class. Unless you have an excused absence, you'll miss out on points for these workshops. Please notify me in advance (if possible) of your absence.

Requirements:

1. **Assignment Sheets:** You must read the Assignment Sheet at the start of every week. All the information you need is there regarding what is due, how it is to be done, what I expect, etc. You can't skate by without reading it each week! Please re-read the Assignment Sheet *before* you email me with a question regarding an assignment. It's the quickest way for you to get the information you need as I may not be able to respond right away when you email me. In almost all circumstances, the information you seek is on the Assignment Sheet.
2. **Class Etiquette:** You must be respectful of other people. Everyone must feel free to participate and learn. Don't mock or give negative feedback on someone's writing unless it's constructive/helpful. We're all here to help each other become better writers! (I've never had a problem with this in my classes, and I want to keep it that way.)
3. **Submitting Assignments:** You must submit your assignments through Canvas.
4. **Participation/Preparation:** You must come to class ready. This means bringing your writing to the table every class session.
5. **Grades:** If you submit all of your assignments and follow directions, you should have no problem receiving a high grade. *This doesn't mean your writing won't be critiqued! You will receive extensive and frequent feedback from multiple sources throughout the year.*
6. **Due Dates:** All due dates are listed on the Assignment Sheets located in the Announcements section. There are two dates you need to be aware of: the due date and the close date. I have every assignment open until the end of the semester, but only students whose parents have cleared an extension with me beforehand can go past the due date. I won't grade any assignments turned in after the due date unless an exception has been granted.