



# Language Arts Overview for Writing



Students can fulfill any prerequisites listed in the course descriptions through other classes or through study at home.

The courses are best taken in the order indicated as they progress with increasing difficulty!

## LEVEL ONE

<b>Writing: Grammar Essentials</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> semester) Recommended for 7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> grade students	<b>Writing: Intro to Style Techniques</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> semester) Recommended for 7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> grade students
This class lays the foundation for strong sentences. It starts with defining the 8 parts of speech and the various jobs they perform. Next, instruction on identifying the subject and predicate of each sentence is emphasized, and the importance of eliminating run-ons and fragments. Students then practice classifying and writing simple, compound, and complex sentences. They will identify the difference between phrases, dependent clauses, independent clauses. Basic diagramming and punctuation rules are also included.	This beginning writing class is based on IEW Level B. The class is designed for the inexperienced writer who benefits from structured creativity. Students will learn 6 styles of sentences, how to choose strong words, and ways to add variety and interest to their paragraphs. This class includes writing fiction and non-fiction paragraphs, a story, poems, and a 5-paragraph report.

## LEVEL ONE PLUS

<b>Writing: Following Narnia</b> (Full Year) Recommended for 7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> grade students
In this full year, theme-based course, we will cover the basics of IEW. Students will learn to take notes, create outlines, summarize narrative stories, construct a research report, compose creative essays and write formal essays and critiques using the "Structure and Style" method. Students will move from basic to more sophisticated writing. Each week the student will leave class with specific reading and writing assignments for the week. The student may need some assistance from a family member to edit assignments.

## LEVEL TWO

*NOTE: The skills developed in these courses will support the requirements for Level Three classes.*

<b>Writing: Developing Style Techniques</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> semester) Recommended for 8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> grade students	<b>Writing: Intro to Formal Writing</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> semester) Recommended for 8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> grade students
This class continues where Intro to Style Techniques leaves off. Skill in using and mastering elements of style is further developed while writing a variety of assignments including reports, essays, stories, and poems. Advanced elements of style are introduced and incorporated at a comfortable pace.	This class begins by focusing on paragraphs. Students will learn how to write various types of paragraphs using a prescribed structure that most students find quite freeing. Students will move on to write a personal narrative essay and a five-paragraph essay. Students will also practice brainstorming and outlining. The mechanics of writing will be covered in a light grammar book called <i>Painless Grammar</i> .

## LEVEL THREE

*The skills in these classes combined lay a foundation for College Writing and Research*

<b>Writing: Advanced Formal Writing</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> semester) Recommended for 9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade students	<b>Writing: College Prep Writing</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> semester) Recommended for 10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade students
This class is about having a place for every thought and putting that thought in the best place. The focus is on learning the structure of the types of essays most commonly required in high school, college, and for the SAT & ACT essay exams. This course will also cover an introduction to the structure of stories as applied to a personal narrative.	This class picks up where Advanced Formal Writing leaves off. Students are prepared for all aspects of college level writing and challenged to write at a more mature level. Practical details of MLA formatting are learned and mastered along with advanced techniques for structure and style. While doing a variety of shorter assignments including a persuasive essay, a literary analysis essay, a resume, and in-class essays, students tackle a long-term research paper in detailed steps that serves as the primary assignment for the semester.

## COLLEGE LEVEL

PSEO for 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students

<b>College Writing and Research</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> semester)
This course emphasizes the fundamentals of effective writing in the context of the elements of rhetoric: writer, audience, and purpose. Students write narrative, informative, and persuasive compositions and a documented research paper.