



# Language Arts Overview for Writing



All courses are one semester long.

See detailed descriptions for these classes in the course description pages on the website.

*Students can fulfill any pre-requisites 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>Grammar Essentials</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> semester) Recommended for 7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> grade students	<b>Writing: Creative Components</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> semester) Recommended for 7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> grade students
This class presents simplified methods for mastering just enough grammar to write well. This course may be taken at any time, but is most beneficial if your student still needs to learn to identify the difference between phrases, dependent and independent clauses. Recognizing these word groups, will help students eliminate run-ons and fragments, enabling them to punctuate correctly. There is also a strong emphasis on the mastery of punctuation.	This class is for the reluctant writer who hasn't discovered the fun in writing yet! Students learn 7 styles of sentences, so their writing becomes more varied. This class focuses on the importance of making every word a best choice. Students will be introduced to the paragraph; all assignments are creative in origin, oriented towards fun writing experiences, and don't require research outside of class.

Level Two	
The skills developed in these courses will support the requirements for Level Three classes.	
<b>Writing: Stylistic Development</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> semester) Recommended for 8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> grade students	<b>Writing: Format Writing</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> semester) Recommended for 8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> grade students
This class continues where Creative Components 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 Recommended for 9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade students	
<b>Writing: Structure &amp; Organization</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> semester) Recommended for 9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade students	<b>Writing: Essays &amp; College Prep</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 Structure & Organization 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.	