

Mrs. Kirsten Anzalone
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Availability: By appointment only.

College Writing Semester II: 2013-2014

Course Description:

“College Writing gives students the opportunity to develop the writing skills and practice the writing formats expected at the college level. The course stresses clear thinking and clear expression in various types of writing, including narration, description, exposition and persuasion. In addition, College Writing emphasizes revising papers for conciseness, style and correctness” (Saint Viator High School Curriculum Guide).

This course requires students to pursue various writing assignments which parallel similar assignments they will likely receive at most universities. The course begins with an emphasis on standard essay formulation, grammatical constructions, stylistic approaches, and syntax usages. Grammar, structures, parallelisms, format options, thesis clarity, paragraph development, and style are all examined or practiced in specific essay assignments. Students **may** formulate essays of Narration, Description, Exposition, Illustration, Comparison/Contrast, Process Analysis, Definition, Argumentation, Persuasion, Literary Analysis, Memoirs, Reflections, Resumes, and Letters of Application.

Course Objectives:

- A. Students will achieve mastery in the writing skills mandated for successful college writing.
- B. Students will effectively integrate their grammatical skills with stylistic creativity to formulate well-structured and well-written essays.
- C. Students will comprehend/understand the various formats for and genres of college writing through their textual readings of model essays and the resultant textual analyses of these essays.
- D. Students will learn the processes of critical reading, structural analysis, textual evaluation, and literary criticism.
- E. Students will compose essays inclusive of structural analysis, textual evaluation, and literary criticism for all the genres of college writing presented in their texts.

Required Materials:

Texts:

- *Reader for College Writers*

Tools:

- Agenda/Assignment Notebook
- Storage device for notes and papers (notebook and folder, or binder with loose-leaf paper)
- Google Drive using @saintviator e-mail account only
- Blue/black pens, pencils, and red pens
- Computer and printer at home or library for working on assignments

Evaluation Procedures:

Quarter III Grade: 40%

Quarter IV Grade: 40%

*Final Exam (Required first semester.): 20%

**Second Semester: Final exam exempt if student earns a comprehensive 93% or above in quarters III and IV.*

Your work in this class will be evaluated in various ways, including quizzes, in-class essays, and small as well as large writing assignments. Each assessment will be worth a certain number of points, which will make up your quarter grade.

Course Expectations, Policies, and Procedures:

- A. Students will exhibit **courtesy and respect** towards other students and the teacher at all times.
- B. Regular attendance is expected.
- C. Be in your seat when the bell rings, and stay in your seat until you are dismissed by the teacher. **Three** unexcused tardies will result in a detention.
- D. Academic honesty is always expected and strictly enforced. This will be discussed in-depth within the first week of class.
- E. Students are expected to participate actively & appropriately (raise your hand & get permission to speak) in class discussions. **Class participation is crucial** to your performance in this class. Your ability to respond and contribute to class discussions is an index of your performance as a whole. Conversely, coming to class unprepared is unacceptable and will not be tolerated; students are expected to keep up with their reading at all times.
- F. Writing or drawing on desks and bulletin boards is not permitted.
- G. All other school rules and policies will be upheld in this class.

Daily Preparation:

- A. Bring your agenda to class each day to record assignments. Although the underclassmen will be using iPads, you are the “last backpack” class. Students using iPads will be held accountable for all rules and regulations outlined in the Saint Viator Handbook.
- B. Bring the relevant text and handouts to class
- C. Maintain class folder for handouts, returned work and a supply of loose-leaf paper.
- D. Maintain orderly and complete notes used for this class only.
- E. Students will be expected to use turnitin.com when they hand in most papers. Please see the handbook for details about this software.

Homework/Tests/Quizzes/Projects/Papers:

- A. Complete assignments on the dates assigned.
- B. The date and content of every test and most quizzes will be announced in advance.
- C. Make-ups must be taken outside of regular class time, and it is the **student’s responsibility** to make the necessary arrangements upon his or her return to school.
- D. Mrs. Anzalone follows the absentee policy as noted in the Saint Viator Handbook.
- E. All writing assignments must be submitted to www.turnitin.com. The English Department Turnitin policy is as follows:
 - All students must use their Saint Viator email address to register for Turnitin. No other email addresses will be recognized nor permitted.
 - All major writing assignments, as well as others indicated by the teacher, must be submitted to Turnitin.
 - In order to receive full credit, students must submit a hard copy to the teacher on the due date, and the assignment must also be submitted to the Turnitin website by the time class begins. Failure to complete both steps will result in the assignment being counted as late.
 - Late assignments will be graded according to the department’s late policy.
- F. The English department’s late work policy is as follows:
 - If you are in the building on the day an assignment is due, you must turn it in to your teacher by the start of class, regardless of whether you attend class or not.
 - Late work will be scored according to the following scale:
 - Up to 1 day late: 25% deduction
 - 1 – 2 days late: 50% deduction
 - More than 2 days late: no credit
- F. Failure to take initiative & complete missing work in a timely manner will result in a grade of zero.

Note from the instructor: Should an extenuating circumstance come up on the day that an assignment is due, see Mrs. Anzalone before school at 7:50 a.m. in Room 221, and she will evaluate the circumstance & consider granting an extension. If students do not see Mrs. Anzalone before school, no exceptions will be granted under any circumstances. Please never line up in front of my desk at the beginning of class. Mrs. Anzalone begins class immediately at the bell.

Contacting Mrs. Anzalone:

Parents: Mrs. Anzalone is available by email at kanzalone@saintviator.com. If parents would like to speak by phone, please email Mrs. Anzalone to set up a time. Mrs. Anzalone responds to all e-mails within 24 hours of reading them.

Students: Mrs. Anzalone is available by appointment only. If you need to speak with her, please email her or stop by room 221 before 7:50 AM to set up an appointment. ***Students, the Saint Viator handbook requires that you “cc” your parents on ALL emails to Mrs. Anzalone.*** Mrs. Anzalone will not respond to e-mails from students that have not been “cc’d.”

Syllabus:

I. Definition Essay (Week of 1/20 and 1/27)

Skills we will focus on in this unit include:

- A. Engaging the reader with a hook.
- B. Writing for an intended audience
- C. Exercising vivid and dynamic language
- D. Grammar and Punctuation Review: Colons, Appositives, and Prepositional Phrases

II. Free Write Essay (Week of 2/3)

Skills we will focus on in this unit include:

- A. Demonstrating vocabulary of an educated candidate
- B. Addressing previous problematic academics or test scores
- C. Painting a picture of you through vivid language.
- D. Grammar and Punctuation Review: Parallelism and Adverbial Phrases

III. Persuasive Essay and Speech Analysis (2/10, 2/17, 2/24)

Skills we will focus on in this unit include:

- A. Utilizing effective rhetorical modes specifically in ethos, pathos, and logos.
- B. Writing to change a reader’s perspective and opinion without bullying the reader.
- C. Choosing a speech to study its rhetorical modes and then presenting the speech to the class while teaching the persuasive qualities of the speech.
- D. Grammar and Punctuation Review: Sentence Structure (Simple, Compound, Complex, Compound/Complex)

IV. APA Research Essay (Week of 3/3, 3/10, 3/17)

Skills we will focus on in this unit include:

- A. Performing professional and collegiate research.
- B. Writing a research paper effectively with credible quoted and paraphrased research.
- C. Documenting research in APA format with in-text citations as well as a Works Cited page.
- D. Grammar and Punctuation Review: Citing sources using correct quotations.

V. Descriptive Essay (3/31)

Skills we will focus on in this unit include:

- A. writing physical details of a person, place, or thing in order to give readers a sensory impression of what is being described.
- B. Using descriptive detail to convey a writer's impression of or attitude about a topic or subject.
- C. Writing using concise and clear language
- D. Grammar and Punctuation Review: Active and Passive Voice

VI. Compare/Contrast Essay (Week of 4/7 and 4/14)

Skills we will focus on in this unit include:

- A. Arriving at a critical thought after comparing and contrasting two unique ideas, topics, or things.
- B. Accurately and correctly describing the differences and similarities between two unique ideas, topics, or things.

VII. Process Analysis Essay (4/28)

- A. Students will write to explain how to do “something” or how “something” works. This will be examined further in the final weeks of class.

VIII. Editorial (If time permits during the week of 5/5)

- A. Students will devise a personal editorial exercising the skills learned throughout the semester and submit it to a credible newspaper such as *Chicago Tribune* or *Daily Herald*.