

Introduction to Creative Writing

Instructor –Moss Kaplan

e-mail: moss_kaplan@dpsk12.org

W: (720)424-1787

Goals:

- To be introduced to the major genres and forms of creative writing, including: fiction, poetry, dramatic writing, letters and creative nonfiction;
- To increase language skills and fluency in writing;
- To enhance ability to work independently and meet deadlines.

Description:

Introduction to Creative Writing is a year-long course designed for students with a passion for writing but who are not creative writing majors; however, the same, yet abbreviated, curriculum and method for students in the CW program is implemented.

In this class, we will experiment with the art of language, participate in a multitude of writing activities, close-examine the craft of experts, engage in journal exercises, workshop the work of peers, and complete several major writing projects.

Expectations and Grading:

Your grade in this class will depend entirely on participation and the completion of assignments. If work is turned in at the end of class on the day it is due, you will be granted full credit. A generous amount of class time will be given to help aid in the completion of the required work; consequently, **late work will be penalized by dropping a letter grade for each day it is late.** In terms of your participation grade, several factors will be examined, including: attendance, sharing your written work with the class, being a supportive listener when others share, contributing feedback for editing/evaluation, and actively engaging in group activities. **Punctuality is also extremely important; please arrive to class on time every day.**

(Because of the breadth of writing I will be reviewing, some of your assignments will simply be checked for completion. Please, however, be aware that I am always willing to meet with you individually, to closely examine a piece and provide specific feedback. Simply inquire about a meeting and I will happily contribute to your process of revision.)

Materials:

- Journal
- A working writing utensil.
- Gmail email account

Course Outline:

First 9 Weeks: Focus on Setting and fundamentals of storytelling

- exercises to play with language (words, seed sentences, FEs, etc.)
- writing & multimedia
- setting journals
- story assignment with setting requirement
- writer appreciation with setting

Second 9 Weeks: Focus on Character and POV

- character journals
- letter to others
- major story assignment with character focus
- FE/writer appreciation presentation
- verbal storytelling
- begin interview process
- more fun with language activities

Third 9 Weeks: Focus on Poetry and Poetic Voice

- pov journals
- major story assignment with pov focus
- letter to someone no longer alive
- poetry workshops/exercises
- read a variety of poems
- write a variety of poems
- interviews/poetry

Fourth 9 Weeks: Focus on Dramatic Writing

- snoop journals for examining natural dialogue
- major writing assignment: 10 minute play
- letter to future self
- short dramatic writings
- in-class activities which examine dramatic writing
- monologue creation and presentation
- more fun with language (short activities)

Rules/Policies:

Using common sense, respect and empathy usually cover any necessary rule. We will also determine specific rules together as a class.