



## Writing 9

**Instructors:** S. Dyer, L. Quinlan, J. Wiseman

### **Course Description**

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#### **Overview**

Welcome to your first intensive secondary Writing course at SLJ! Our immediate goal is to examine multiple writers and their styles as a model for our own writing. Through intensive reading and writing, you will begin to craft your style and find your voice as a writer. You will, therefore, be participating in an individualized writing curriculum based on your needs as well as participating in the analysis of texts in larger groups. Your willingness to work hard will ensure a successful and edifying year for each of us.

I believe all students can learn if given the proper environment. Therefore, you can be assured that my classroom will be a place where you, the student, and I, the teacher, work together to produce an environment of mutual trust, respect, and open communication. As in any successful business or organization, it is pertinent that we all understand the purpose and objectives of our class, as well as the expected attitude and behavior we will need to properly succeed. The following syllabus contains information about what you can expect to accomplish in this Writing course.

#### **Course Objectives**

This course is designed to assist you in motivating yourself to develop your analytical reasoning skills by exploring the relationship between reading and writing. We will focus on inquiry-based writing and collaborative learning. This course will help you improve how to express yourself in writing. Throughout your life, you will be judged by many people based solely on how you represent yourself in writing. Doors will open themselves for you far more easily if you can articulate yourself well on the page.

Please read and review this syllabus in its entirety, sign the last page, and ask your parents to do the same. Return the last page to me no later than **Wednesday, Sept. 12**. Upon receipt, you will receive one homework grade of an A/5 points (turn it in a day late and you will receive half credit). If you or your parent/guardian has any questions about the course, please speak to me. The best way to reach me is through e-mail. My address is [sdyer@sljhs.org](mailto:sdyer@sljhs.org). You may also try to reach me at 718-858-1160.

I look forward to getting to know each of you!

Sincerely,

Ms. S. Dyer

**Required Materials**

In addition to the materials required by SLJ, the following materials are REQUIRED for this course. If you are not able to supply these materials, please see me before Wednesday, September 12.

- Two composition notebooks (we will start using these tomorrow)
- Post it Notes (sticky notes – any color)
- Blue or black ink pens as well as a sharpened pencil
- Green, yellow, pink, and blue highlighters
- One pocket folder (I will provide the first one for you. If you lose it, you'll need to replace it.)
- A space in your SLJ binder for Writing
- A box of Kleenex

**Grading**

A rubric will be provided to you for each task (writing assignment, homework, quiz, exam, and project) based on the instruction and assignment. Each marking period your grades will be calculated as such:

10%	20%	20%	25%	25%
<b>Professionalism</b> (Attendance, timeliness, dress code, behavior, attitude, personal presentation)	<b>Homework</b> (Notebook assignments, writing assignments, rough drafts, brainstorm maps, etc.)	<b>Minor Assessments</b> (All reading, grammar, writing quizzes and tests)	<b>Classwork</b> (Notes, in class assignments, journals, collaborative work, independent reading work)	<b>Major Assessments</b> ( <b>Final</b> drafts of essays and all major projects)

**Late Work**

Late work is NEVER accepted for full credit. All missed work must be made up. **If your work is one day late, it will receive half credit. If work is more than one day late, it will be marked as completed, but you will not receive any credit.** Any work missed as a result of an excused absence must be handed in no later than the day after the student returns to class in order to receive full credit. This is a NON NEGOTIABLE policy.

**Course Routines**

The format and structure for our class will rarely change. Each day, we will follow a set schedule, which will include the following:

<p><b>Freewriting</b> (7 minutes) We freewrite in our journals during this time. There are no boundaries - you may write about anything you would like. You will receive full credit for using the entire time to write.</p>	<p><b>Lessons and Workshop</b> (40 minutes) * Includes daily lessons, conferences, and small group work * Students have ongoing writing assignments and projects throughout the year, which we will often focus on during the workshop period.</p>	<p><b>Closing</b> (7 min.) This time includes reflections, celebrations, student sharing, and reviews.</p>
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### **Attendance and Lateness Policy**

Class attendance is mandatory. Failing to attend class WILL affect your grade and WILL result in detention. Every time you are late, you will lose points from your professionalism grade. You are expected to attend class regularly and promptly. A three day or more absence without a note constitutes an unauthorized absence and it will be noted on your permanent attendance record. It is the student's responsibility to find out from the teacher what s/he missed in class. This is to be done after school (NOT during class). If you come unprepared to class, your professionalism and classwork grades will suffer.

### **Restroom Use**

Please refer to the SLJ restroom policy. However, take note that we are inside the classroom to learn and NOT to excuse ourselves to the restrooms. It is very rare that I will allow you to leave the room during the first 30 minutes of class because I am selfish and I like you in MY class during OUR time together. Of course, exceptions will be made for emergencies but consider yourselves adequately warned!

### **Classroom Entry and Exit Procedures**

You will line up outside of room 334 and wait patiently for me to greet you at the door. When you enter, you will collect your folder with your freewrite journal and notebook and then be seated in your assigned seat and begin writing. I dismiss you, not the clock, not your peers, and not yourself.

### **Concerning Plagiarism**

All writing assignments that you submit for this course must be either entirely your own or properly cited. If it is not, you are guilty of plagiarism, which is not tolerated at SLJ. I want you to have a clear idea of what plagiarism is from the start so that there can be no mistake later (unintentional plagiarism is still plagiarism).

There are three major types of plagiarism:

- Word-for-word copying, without acknowledgment, of the language of another writer. Having another person write or dictate all or part of one's composition is plagiarism of this kind and is clearly forbidden.
- The unacknowledged paraphrasing of an author's ideas. The student should no more take credit for another person's thoughts than for another person's words. Any distinctive, original idea taken from another writer should be credited to its author.
- Incorrectly copying or paraphrasing. In a verbatim copying of a source, involving the use of quotation marks and the acknowledgment of the author, the student does not have the right to change or add any words, even if the original author made a mistake. A paraphrase should be in YOUR words.

### **Code of Respect**

I expect all of my students to behave appropriately in my classroom. Earning an education is our number one goal, and we have no time for disruptive behaviors. I believe that every student has the right to learn without distraction and that no student has the right to disturb the learning process. I strive to maintain an organized, balanced, and firm classroom. In order to adhere to the SLJ code of conduct based on the 3 Principles of Respect (Respect for Self, Respect for Others, and Respect for Property), and in order to guarantee all the students in my classroom the excellent learning climate they deserve, I am using the Code of Respect outlined on the next page.

**CODE of RESPECT**

**Respect yourself** = Please value your own self and your own intelligence; show that you deserve respect by giving respect. Be accountable for yourself.

**Respect Ms. Dyer / Ms. Wiseman** = Please do not talk while I am talking; listen while I speak, and address me with respectful language at all times.

**Respect one another** = Please do not talk while others are talking and please address others with respectful language. Listen to the person who was given permission to talk.

**Respect our room and our space** = Please do not eat, **chew gum**, or drink; do not throw items on the floor, and do not abuse classroom materials (furniture, books, etc). Please keep in mind that we work as a team to create a safe and comfortable classroom.

**Respect your role as a student at SLJ** = Come to school on time and be prepared and in dress code. Please remember there is to be no fighting or otherwise inappropriate behaviors. Please remember when entering SLJ that you are to remove hats, sunglasses, etc., and turn off cellular phones, games, pagers, etc. The teachers and/or deans reserve the right to confiscate these items.

**If a student chooses to break our code of respect:**

1st offense –Reminder (student-teacher conference)

2nd offense – Intervention (removed from group work/possible detention/phone call home)

3rd offense - Consequences (detention; stripped of privileges to participate in collaborative learning - field trips, etc.)

**Severe Disruption** – a. Student will immediately be sent to the dean.

b. Parent will be required to come in for a conference / possibly shadow student.

Our classroom, in its most successful form, is its own reward. In my class, students spend a lot of time working through their writing individually as well as collaboratively. This allows for a greater sense of self-worth among students and also provides a solid base on which to build sound ideas, questions, and written expressions.

Please sign and return this page. Please keep the syllabus for your records.

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I have read the policy sheet and the discipline plan. I will abide by the discipline plan and policies and procedures outlined for Ms. Dyer’s English course.

Student’s signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s signature \_\_\_\_\_

Home Number \_\_\_\_\_

I *know* this is going to be an exciting year for us!

Thanks,

Ms. S. Dyer and Ms. L. Quinlan