



Creative Writing Class Information 2007



Welcome! I am so excited that all of you are here in creative writing. We are in for a great semester of solidifying ourselves as authors.

In this class, you will become comfortable with your own personal writing process where you will eventually find your voice on the page and eventually produce polished pieces for hopeful publication. I will help you become more knowledgeable and comfortable with the publication process as well as techniques for releasing the writer within all of us.

Our goal as a community of writers is to enhance our cultural literacy and become aware of the intentions of other writers through their choice of style and use of literary devices. As writers ourselves, we will use each other as our main resource for growth. Not only will we write as writers, we will think and speak as writers as well.

-Erin Rankin

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Classroom Materials:

- Composition note book or Journal
- Pen, hi-liter, #2 pencil
- Folder/binder (used to keep up with creative writing handouts)
- Package of Post-it Notes (any size, shape or color)

Grading System: My classroom is based on the point system. Each assignment is assigned a point value based on the difficulty. Daily work is 10 to 15 points. Larger assignments will range from 15 to 50 points. Final pieces are 200 points. You are provided a grade sheet each six weeks to keep up with your grades and an ongoing list of each grade taken for the six weeks will be posted on the board in class at all times. A three week progress report will be given to every student on the Monday of the 4th week of the six weeks. Your average is computed by taking the total number of points you received divided by the total number of possible points creating a percentage.

For Example:

Small Group Share Participation	30/30
Draft Due	35/40
Polished Piece	192/200
<i>You earned:</i>	257 points out of a possible 270 points
	$257/270 = .951$ or a 95%

Late Work/Make-up Work: All work should be turned in during class on the day it is due. Work will be accepted one day late for -10 points. After that one day of "grace" you will receive a zero for the assignment. If you are absent for any reason, you will have one day for each day you are absent to make up any work. It is your responsibility to obtain your work and turn it in without reminders from me.

Tardy Policy:

For each six weeks, the following school-wide tardy policy will apply. A tardy is defined as being in the room, ready to work, with the necessary supplies when the final bell rings. In addition, any student who arrives to class once the door is locked will have to get a pass from the office to enter class.

Plagiarism:

Copying another author's work not acceptable in any form, whether published previously or taken from a classmate. Any act of plagiarism will be dealt with on an individual basis with loss of grade and/or disciplinary actions

Creative Writing Terminology

Publication: We will develop several polished pieces and submit them for publication, whether it is in our own literary magazine or an outside publication. With our first piece, we will take our time moving through the process. After our first publication date, following dates will be closer together. These pieces are graded as a final product and are major grades. Rubrics will be established and discussed ahead of time.

Small Group Shares: On days of small group shares, you will be sharing your work-in-progress with a small group of your classmates. For these days, you will always need something to share, whether it be the opening paragraph of a piece you are not sure what to do with or a poem you feel has met perfection. Through these share times, you will grow as an author by bouncing ideas off other writers and by listening to your peer's work: both vital pieces to perfecting your craft.

Large Group Shares: On the date of publication, we will have a large circle share, where we will all share a portion of our polished piece. This is a wonderful time to hear how pieces have grown and styles vary.

Ludic Reading: Ludic reading is pleasure reading. To be a skilled writer, you must be an avid reader. You will choose one novel, book of poetry, collection of short stories, etc. to have with you at all times. Your only job is to read, enjoy your choice, and have it with you in order to take advantage of ludic reading days and also to have as a reference piece when evaluating style. Ludic reading days and response cards will be announced in advance.

Response Cards: From time to time we will read articles about writing or from selections from writers about their craft. You will be completing response cards for these assignments. This note card is a collection of your thoughts, observations and nuggets of wisdom that you have gleaned from the piece and will be a daily grade.

Mini-Lessons: These are specific strategies and techniques to apply to the piece you are working on, or to later pieces. Collect these ideas like seeds and see what they can grow.

Clocking: Clocking is one of the final stages in the writing process. You and your peers will be looking for specific stylistic problems in your final pieces to correct before publication.

Composition Books/Journals: Your composition books are the heart and soul of this class. They will be used for prewriting, note taking, drafting and general collection of ideas and strategies. Feel free to decorate your composition books to express yourself. Nothing in your composition books will be graded by me, but you will be sharing often pieces that you have written there. You will need to bring it with you every day to class.