Writing Foundations (Advanced)

Formal Academic Essay Writing

(Average 9th and 12th graders, often ages 14-17)

Skills Needed to Succeed:

- Able to utilize more complex vocabulary, more complex sentence structures and phrasing, and can discuss more mature concepts
- Has a degree of mastery writing more than one expanded paragraph (understands how to write "chunks", and how to complete a full brainstorm)
- Able to write multiple paragraphs with instruction and planning
- Ready to complete an essay writing with a complex introduction and conclusion
- Familiar with literary analysis writing, including weaving quotes from informational texts into composition
- Shows evidence of time management skills
- Able to complete 4 to 5 hours of homework weekly

Skills Learned:

- Continuing to practice TWJ writing steps and strategies: brainstorm, outline, rough draft, final draft
- Developing five-paragraph essays on a single topic
- Understanding the various essay types, such as: personal reflective, descriptive, expository, argumentative, persuasive, compare and contrast, and research writing
- Developing critical thinking skills necessary for high school level writing prompts
- Implementing MLA/APA formatting
- Learning the components of a complex intro/conclusion
- Mastering a thesis paragraph, topic sentences, and transitional sentences
- Providing specific examples from informational texts to support assertions
- Explaining examples with insightful commentary, including being introduced writing "chunks" using concrete details and commentary sentences

- Improving sentence structure through mastery of stylistic elements
- Completing a full essay on each type of essay

Other Details:

- Required materials: The Write Journey Writing Handbook and Student Lesson Guide
- Class meets for 1.5 hours per week
- Class lasts for 12 weeks, and begins at the start of each semester
- Students will be assigned and expected to complete 4 to 5 hours of homework weekly
- Maximum class size- 15 students