

High School Reading & Essay Writing

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

Skills Needed to Succeed:

- Able to read complex novels with challenging vocabulary, more mature content, and complex sentence structures
- Practices the following study skills:
 - Novel annotations and charting
 - Summarizing
 - Note-taking
- Familiar with literary analysis writing and correctly weaving quotes into essay
- Shows a degree of mastery writing a 3 body paragraph essay and is ready to consistently write 5 paragraph essays
- Ready to learn how to write a research paper
- Shows evidence of time management skills
- Able to complete 5 to 6 hours of homework weekly

Skills Learned:

- Fully developing a topic by writing multiple paragraphs
- Following the essay format of an introduction with a hook, a strong thesis, three body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph
- Mastering a thesis paragraph, topic sentences, and transitional sentences
- Providing specific examples from the novel to support assertions
- Explaining the examples with insightful literary analysis, using concrete details and supporting commentary sentences
- Creating quality sentences by including many stylistic elements including strong vocabulary, varied sentence structure and length with proper punctuation, and adding figurative elements.
- Implementing MLA/APA formatting
- Developing critical thinking skills necessary for high school level writing prompts

Other Details:

- Required materials: The Write Journey Writing Handbook and Student Workbook
- Class meets for 2 hours per week
- Class lasts for 12 weeks
- Students will be assigned and expected to complete 4 to 5 hours of homework weekly
- At the Advanced Level, at least one semester each school year, students will be required to write a research paper for their enrichment project. The research paper will in some way be related to the novel they are studying.
- Maximum class size- 15 students