



COURSE DESCRIPTION

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WRITING FUNDAMENTALS - GROUP CLASS (for high school students)

Mercer Education’s **WRITING FUNDAMENTALS GROUP CLASS** provides high school students with a weekly opportunity to engage in the full writing process and receive in-depth, extended guidance and feedback from a highly qualified and experienced writing teacher. The objective of the class is to give students the composition skills they need and the confidence that comes from knowing they can mature as writers and effectively communicate their thoughts and opinions. The class focuses on a step-by-step approach to systematically teach and explicitly model writing strategies for writing expository essays. Students engage in the full writing process with each assignment from brainstorming ideas to planning, organizing, drafting and revising. Using an established rubric, students practice peer-editing skills and learn to carefully, self-edit their own work with the goal of becoming independent, self-guided, competent writers.

The weekly class meetings offer students the time and opportunity necessary to achieve the level of written competence and fluency they need in an increasingly text-filled, information-laden world where the ability to communicate effectively is essential. Each 5-month fall and spring semester class has its own unique content with *no repetition of material* so that students can attend up to four consecutive semesters (two academic years) and work with challenging new materials. Though the majority of ME students enroll on an ongoing basis in order to strengthen and refine their composition skills, ME’s 2-month enrollment cycle provides maximum flexibility so that students can determine how long they want to attend. Students may enroll at any time (enrolling midway through the course is no problem) and receive a free assessment, after which they are assigned to appropriate groups according to level and availability.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Systematically learn and practice full-writing process with each assignment
- ▶ Recursive explanations and modeling of writing strategies
- ▶ Learn rubric for and practice peer- and self-editing and correcting
- ▶ Extended, in-depth feedback and guidance from experienced writing teacher
- ▶ Sentence building and combining; effective Thesis Statements, Topic Sentences, Sentence Variety
- ▶ Vocabulary Building; Tone Awareness
- ▶ “Rolling” admission / Start at any time.
- ▶ Attend as long as needed to hone skills.

Unlike corporate franchises, Mercer Education’s experienced instructors use engaging materials to teach expository writing and the critical thinking and analysis skills that are integral parts of the writing process. This program takes a methodical, well-paced approach to increase students’ confidence and success in their ongoing academic endeavors and equip them with the foundational writing skills they will need to express their thoughts and ideas effectively in their professional lives.

- Meets once a week via Zoom for 1 hour and 50 minutes.
- Class size limited to no more than 8 students per group.
- Students receive free assessment upon enrollment and then are grouped by level and availability.
- Cost based on 2-month blocks of pre-scheduled classes (7-9 classes per 2-month session, i.e., \$385-495 at \$55/class) ongoing throughout the year (Jan-Feb, Mar-Apr, etc.). Start any time/mid-session sign-up prorated.
- Parents receive progress reports (Dec. and May) with scores, comments, and recommendations.
- Year-round classes generally scheduled weekends 9am–5pm and weekdays after school.