

## **Middle School Writing WorkShop–Fall 2017**

**Teacher: Julie Poe**

**Class meets Mondays 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**([julie.poe@ThePrometheusAcademy.com](mailto:julie.poe@ThePrometheusAcademy.com)) or text (214.587.3987)**

Most of our students could use some work on their writing, and it is often a painful process for us parents. The WriteShop approach is a good fit even for those who hate writing or deal with difficulties in writing. It is a really clear process, taking one step at a time. We will work on pre-writing activities, editing, revising, and building particular skills.

### **Each First Revision and Final Draft needs to be typed.**

If that is not possible, they can be neatly handwritten.

**Students are welcome to bring a laptop or other device to class to do their writing.**

### **Class Materials**

- 3-ring binder devoted to this class only
- Notebook paper
- Pens and pencils
- Colored pencils
- Workbook: *WriteShop I Student Workbook: An Incremental Writing Program* [4th Edition], by Kim Kautzer and Debra Oldar, ©2003, Publisher: WriteShop, Inc. Paperback
- The *Synonym Finder* is not required for this class, but I have a copy for in-class use. A thesaurus of some kind is highly recommended.

Always feel free to talk with me about making modifications in assignments according to your student's particular strengths and weaknesses. She may need to research and share some background information with the class to keep her stretching, or he may need to submit writing assignments through a word processor rather than writing by hand.

### **Holidays:**

Labor Day: Monday, Sept. 4.

Thanksgiving Break: November 20 - 24

Winter Break: December 15 - Jan. 14

**Attendance and Absences:** I know that some absences are unavoidable. Please email or text me (or remind your student) if he or she will be absent. I will suggest make-up work, but it can never replace the experience missed during class.

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Graded papers will be returned to your student and grades will be posted on Praxis. Both your student and you will have a PraxiSchool account to access your grades.

Don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. You can reach me by email ([julie.poe@ThePrometheusAcademy.com](mailto:julie.poe@ThePrometheusAcademy.com)) or text (214.587.3987). I don't usually answer the phone because I am usually teaching. Immediately before and after class are not the best time to talk with me since I teach back-to-back classes, but if you let me know that you need to talk, I can plan for that to happen.

I am looking forward to a great year!

**8/28** We will do some getting acquainted with each other and with the textbook. We will talk about concrete writing (Lesson 1A) and about paragraphs and topic sentences (iv-v). We will work through an example of worksheet 1-9 together.

**Homework: Complete Lesson 1A Skillbuilder (1-1 through 1-5).**

**Read page. 1-7 and 1-8.**

**Choose an object and complete pg. 1-9.**

**Write a sloppy copy following the directions on pg. 1-8.**

**Bring it to class on September 11th.**

**9/04** No class--Labor Day

**9/11** We will read our sloppy copies and work through the student writing checklist together. We will write our first revision in class and turn it in or email it to Mrs. Poe by 9/13. See pg. ii-iii for model composition format.

**Homework: If necessary, email first revision by Wednesday (9/13).**

**9/18** We will have writer's conferences, work on final drafts, and begin Lesson 2.

**9/20 Homework: The final draft should be emailed to Mrs. Poe or turned in at the Write Shop box by Wednesday (9/20).**

From this point, students do most of their writing and revising at home. During class time, I will conference individually with each student after I check his first revision. We will also do a lot of activities to prepare for the at-home assignments, build writing skills, and correct errors that have shown up.

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**SB** = Skill Builder, **d** = day ( So SB2d3 would mean only day 3 of the skill builders for chapter 2) **REV** = Revision (This revision will include the observation worksheet or other brainstorming, the sloppy copy, the completed student checklist, and the neat copy with improvements made after the student checklist.)

**FINAL** = the final version of a particular composition. After the student turns in her revision, I complete the teacher checklist and then conference with the student about the composition. Then they make improvements based on our conference and turn in the final copy stapled on top of all the items included in the revision, plus the teacher checklist.

**Oct. 2, 2017** Turn in: REV2

Homework: REV3

**Oct. 9, 2017** Turn in: REV3 and FINAL 1 if it has not been submitted yet

Homework: FINAL 2 and SB3d2

**Oct. 16, 2017** Turn in: FINAL 2 and SB3d2

Homework: FINAL 3 and SB41,2, and 3

**Oct. 23, 2017** Turn in: FINAL 3 and SB4

Homework: REV5 (**Note that we will not actually be writing the composition for lesson 4, only doing the skill builders.**)

**Oct. 30, 2017** Turn in: REV5

Homework: SB5d3

**Nov. 6, 2017** Turn in: SB5d3

Homework: FINAL 5 and REV6

**Nov. 13, 2017** Turn in: FINAL 5 and REV6

Homework: SB6d2and3 (I hope we will finish this in class so students will not have homework over Thanksgiving Break.)

**Nov. 27, 2017** Turn in (if necessary): SB6d2and3

Homework: FINAL 6

**Dec. 4, 2017** Turn in: FINAL 6