



**Gifted LearningLinks Program  
Core Essentials Course Syllabus**

**Instructor name: Mrs. Viki Gardner  
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**Course Title: Introduction to Advanced Writing: Essay**

**Session Date:** Core Essentials 2011-2012, Fall/Winter/Spring/Summer

**Course Description:**

*Prerequisite: Introduction to Advanced Grammar*

*Beneficial: Introduction to Advanced Writing: Sentences  
Introduction to Advanced Writing: Paragraphs*

This course prepares young students for academic writing through a high-level introduction to essay writing (including essay exams, research papers, critical responses, and other formal analyses of academic subjects).

This is not a course of informal or creative writing, such as journals, short stories, or poetry. However, students may communicate with the teacher informally, via a private dialogue journal. Dialogue journals not only open a new channel of communication, but they also provide another context for language and literacy development. Students have the opportunity to use the skills they are learning in a non-threatening atmosphere. Because the interaction is written, it allows students to use reading and writing in purposeful ways and provides a natural, comfortable bridge to other kinds of writing.

**Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- a. Know the elements of a correct essay, including introduction, supporting paragraphs, and conclusion.
- b. Understand that essays have a unique purpose and must be organized correctly.
- c. Students will be able to write complete essays that are organized well and sound right by using correct grammar and strong vocabulary, while inputting their own sense of style and form.

**Resources and Materials:** Note: Order the following textbook directly from Royal Fireworks Press, [www.rfwp.com](http://www.rfwp.com) or call 845/726-4444.

Textbook: *Essay Voyage*  
Author: Michael Clay Thompson  
Publisher: Royal Fireworks Press  
Year: 2007  
ISBN: 978-0-088092-672-0

**CTD Statement on Third-Party Web Sites**

*Instructors are required to thoroughly review any third-party web sites they intend to use in their courses for inappropriate content. However, because web content continuously changes, CTD disclaims any responsibility for any of the content contained on third-party web sites used in course materials. If you become aware of anything that may be inappropriate, please notify CTD staff immediately.*

**Schedule:**

	<b>Topic/Focus</b>	<b>Activities &amp; Reading Assignments</b>	<b>What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?</b>	<b>What do I need to turn in?</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	Orientation to Online Learning	Warm up activities Grammar review	Brief introduction to classmates and 1 reply to classmate	Scavenger Hunt and dialogue journal entry
<b>Week 2</b>	Chapter 1	Correctness	1 discussion response and 1 reply to a classmate	Practice Exercises Writing Activity
<b>Week 3</b>	Chapter 2	Structure	1 discussion response and 1 reply to a classmate	Practice Exercises Writing Activity
<b>Week 4</b>	Chapter 3	Unity	1 discussion response and 1 reply to a classmate	Practice Exercises Writing Activity
<b>Week 5</b>	Chapter 4	Formality	1 discussion response and 1 reply to a classmate	Practice Exercises Writing Activity
<b>Week 6</b>	Chapter 5	Wordiness	1 discussion response and 1 reply to a classmate	Practice Exercises Writing Activity
<b>Week 7</b>	Chapter 8	Conclusion	1 discussion response and 1 reply to a classmate	Practice Exercises Writing Activity
<b>Week 8</b>	Chapter 9	Meaning	1 discussion response and 1 reply to a classmate 15	Practice Exercises Writing Activity
<b>Week 9</b>	Chapter 10 Wrap Up	Finish	1 farewell discussion and 1 reply to a classmate	Practice Exercises Writing Activity

**Student Evaluation and Grading Policies for Credit Courses Only:**

Enrichment students will receive a final narrative evaluation after the course is complete.

**Instructor Biography:**

*Prior to her teaching career, Viki worked her way up in the publishing industry from manufacturing assistant to book designer, and eventually changed direction to become a publisher's sales representative. While working in sales for a school book fair company, she*

*decided to change careers in midlife. Determined to fulfill a childhood dream of being a teacher, she went back to college and obtained her BS in Elementary Education with a Reading Specialization from Texas Woman's University in 1992. To be sure she could teach at any grade level, she also obtained a secondary license to teach English Language Arts and Reading. After teaching for 12 years in a traditional classroom, Viki returned to graduate school and obtained her MAEd in Adult Education/Distance Learning from University of Phoenix in 2005. Viki has been teaching online exclusively ever since.*

*Viki has received numerous awards for her skills in teaching. She has been nominated for the CTY Online Teaching Excellence Award every year since 2007, when she won the award from Johns Hopkins University. She also earned an honored place in the 2005-2006 edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers. Her writing has appeared in Celebrate! Poets Speak Out-Educators 2002, on the Internet, and in other literary periodicals. Besides teaching for Gifted Learning Links, she also facilitates online classes for Johns Hopkins University's Center for Talented Youth program, Time4Writing, and Performance Learning Systems.*

**Contact Information:**

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GLL Sample