



**Gifted LearningLinks Program
Core Enrichment Course Syllabus**

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

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

Course Description:

Prerequisite: Introduction to Advanced Grammar

Beneficial: Introduction to Advanced Writing: Sentences

Building upon grammar knowledge, students learn how to organize sentences into orderly paragraphs. Grow as a writer as you explore different kinds of paragraphs (dialogue, description, exposition, and comparison) and study punctuation.

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 paragraph, including topic sentence, supporting sentences, details, and concluding sentence.
- b. Understand that paragraphs have a unique purpose and must be organized correctly.
- c. Students will be able to write complete paragraphs 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 or call 845/726-4444.

Textbook: *Paragraph Town*
Author: Michael Clay Thompson
Publisher: Royal Fireworks Press
Year: 2007
ISBN: 978-0-88092-670-6

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:

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Week 1	Orientation to Online Learning	Warm up activities	Brief introduction to classmates and 1 reply to classmate	Scavenger Hunt and dialogue journal entry
Week 2	Grammar Review	Parts of Speech Parts of a Sentence	1 discussion response and 1 reply to a classmate	Grammar quiz and dialogue journal entry
Week 3	Chapter 1	Pronouns Subject/Verb Agreement Phrases: Prepositional and Appositive	1 discussion response and 1 reply to a classmate	Writing Activity Four-level analysis sentence and dialogue journal entry
Week 4	Chapter 2	Order in Paragraphs Verbal Phrases: Gerunds	1 discussion response and 1 reply to a classmate	Writing Activity Four-level analysis sentence and dialogue journal entry
Week 5	Chapter 3	One Idea Per Paragraph Length Topic Sentence Connectors Verbal Phrases: Participle and Infinitive	1 discussion response and 1 reply to a classmate	Writing Activity Four-level analysis sentence and dialogue journal entry
Week 6	Chapter 4	Purpose Clauses: Compound, Complex, Compound/Complex Punctuation	1 discussion response and 1 reply to a classmate	Writing Activity Four-level analysis sentence and dialogue journal entry
Week 7	Chapter 5	Organization Style & Form More Punctuation Point of View	1 discussion response and 1 reply to a classmate	Writing Activity Four-level analysis sentence and dialogue journal entry

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Week 8	Chapter 6	Sound of Language More Style Formal Diction/Tone of Words Fragments	1 discussion response and 1 reply to a classmate 15	Writing Activity Four-level analysis sentence and dialogue journal entry
Week 9	Wrap Up	Review writing good paragraphs	1 farewell discussion and 1 reply to a classmate	Writing Activity and dialogue journal entry

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.

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