



Gifted LearningLinks Program Course Syllabus

Instructor name: C. Lee

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Online Writing Workshop, Grades 6-8

Session: Winter 2012

Course Description:

This workshop immerses students in the writing process by engaging them in the act of writing with an online teacher and peers. Writing done throughout the week will be discussed in real time chats on many of the Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings during the course. Between chats, replies to each student's 'work in progress' will be placed in the work areas by both students and teacher.

Students will use technology to produce: one complete story that is from five to ten pages in length, or ten pages of Part One of a chapter book. Polished stories will be published online at Northwestern University's iCollaboratory, with permission of parents. Students will work on brainstorming, outlining, scene writing, and storyboarding. An extensive revision of their work is the final step: detailed editing is guided by the teacher, modeling appropriate grammar, word choice, story structure, and logic of plot. Student work will address many of the elementary through middle school reading standards through discussions of how characters, plot, and setting are developed. They will then apply their understanding to the stories they write.

The course will address many of the elementary through middle school communication strands, including work on grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Students will mature in the art of telling a good story through effective sentence and paragraph development. Polished stories will be published online at Northwestern University's iCollaboratory with permission of parents. Students own all rights to their stories.

Class requirements: Students meet online collaboratively on an average of once a week, or more, working with their peers and mentor online via Acrobat Connect and, between chats, in placing comments for their peers in the peer Work Areas.

Assignments and Chat Meetings are listed on a printable OWW schedule which will guide students in all assignments and dates of chats throughout the session.

Communication with the teacher: Parents and students with questions are urged to contact the OWW teacher, Carol Lee, by email at: xxx@xxx.xxx. Mrs. Lee emails the students regularly and often, to keep them on track. Students will also receive emails of the writing of their peers--they can then click on the link and post comments to their fellow writers.

Evaluation:

Evaluation by the teacher is ongoing, through comments in each student's work area, emails, and communication in the chat room. Parents can monitor their student's ongoing progress by accessing the teacher's comments in their child's work area every time new writing has been posted. At the end of class, a written assessment of each student's class participation and work will be submitted to the Center for Talent Development.

Upon successful completion of this course: Students will have written an original fiction or nonfiction piece of five to ten pages, or ten pages of Part One of a chapter book. Students should leave the workshop with enhanced planning and writing skills and polished stories in a genre of their choosing. They will have focused on brainstorming, outlining, storyboarding, and revisions of their work, with special emphasis on grammar, word choice, story structure, and logic of plot.

Students will also have become part of a close-knit writing community. Students will mature in the art of telling a good story through effective sentence and paragraph development.

Students will have learned to use technology to produce a composition and to discuss writing techniques with peers, in real time chats and on an online discussion board. Polished stories will be published online at Northwestern University's iCollaboratory, with permission of parents. Students own all rights to their stories.

DISCLAIMER:

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.

The final transcript of your work will include excerpts of your writing. As per the procedure of the Center for Talent Development, please note that the teacher has a legal obligation to report any writing that implies or depicts real harm to one's self or to others. It is the instructor's responsibility to share this writing with the director of the program and with the student's parents. Students are expected to make a positive contribution to the artistic climate in which they have an integral role. All writing done for this course may be available to your parents/guardians.