



**Gifted Learning Links Program
Core Essentials Syllabus**

**Instructor name: Elaine Purnell
E-mail address: xxx@xxx.xxx**

Course Title: Writing Research Papers I

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

Course Description:

This course takes students beyond the skills required for writing journals or stories. Participants focus on the construction of sentences, the use of academic vocabulary, proper essay and paragraph structure, MLA (Modern Language Association) paper format and the selection of an academic thesis.

Note: A text for this course is *Advanced Academic Writing, Volume I*, by Michael Clay Thompson.

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

- a. Know the four basic elements of advanced academic writing
- b. Understand the purpose of academic writing is to communicate clearly, succinctly
- c. Write short length, high standards research papers using the MLA Method.

Resources and Materials:

- Thompson, Michael Clay. *Advanced Academic Writing*, Unionville: Royal Fireworks Press, NY Revised July, 2010 ISBN: 978-0-88092-675-1

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: (Subject to change)

	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	Introduction pages 5-10	Summarize readings, comments	

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Week 2	Basics of an MLA Paper, Quotations, Sample Paper, Standard Punctuation, Usage and Grammar Rules	Advanced Academic Writing pages 12-26	Integrity: No Plagiarism-people are fired and lose careers when they plagiarize	
Week 3	Four – Level Assessment, Advanced Writing Assignments	First Paper: Single Source Interpretation of Fiction	Discussion Questions: Are any of these words unknown to you?	Assignment one: Think like an academic writer—about words, about sentences
Week 4	Advanced Writing Assignments	Assignment One: Focus Area Actual Research paper Comments	Discussion Questions: The reason research is called research	Quiz, Organization and Outline, Planning and Preparing the First Paper
Week 5	Second Paper: Multiple Works Cited	Assignment Two: Think like an academic writer – about words, about sentences	Discussion Questions: Which of these words do you think is most powerful? Which word would you least likely to be called? Which word might be common in novels?	Study page 76 as homework.
Week 6	Third Paper: A Revolutionary Character	Assignment Three: Think like an academic writer-about words	Discussion Questions: Which of these words might be used in a science paper? Which might be found in a poem? Which of these words might be good to describe a revolutionary character?	Study page 86 as homework. Quiz. Preparing the second paper

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Week 7	Third Paper continued	Third Paper continued		
Week 8	An Abstract Concept	Advanced Academic Writing page 92	Discussion Questions: If you could only remember two of these words, which two would you choose? Why? Which word in this lists sounds most intelligent?	Punctuation quiz
Week 9	An Abstract Concept	Continue from previous week		

Student Evaluation and Grading Policies for Credit Courses Only:

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

Instructor Biography:

Elaine Purnell is a sixth grade Reading, Language Arts, and Social Studies teacher at Nichols Middle School in Evanston, Illinois. This is her ninth year teaching in the district. Ms. Purnell received her Master in Education from DePaul University. She is an award winning coach for Chicago Area Problem Solvers, an enrichment program for talented elementary and high school students.

Contact Information:

Email: xxx@xxx.xxx