

Writing College Application Essays (12th graders only—Fall semester only)

Sunday Course

This class is designed to support students in putting their best foot forward on all essay portions of college applications, including main essays and supplements. Students will be guided through the process of locating all the essay prompts they will need to respond to, brainstorming, writing and editing their essays. They will be guided in managing deadlines and receive important tips on how to showcase their best selves while avoiding common mistakes. Students can expect to spend hours outside of class writing and editing essays as well as researching and visiting their chosen schools.

Vocabulary and Reading (7-9 and up)

This class focuses on building word skills in vocabulary and reading. The result is higher scores on vocabulary-related exams of all kinds, an ignited interest in reading a variety of books, and better comprehension of what is read. This is a two-semester class; in the first semester, students will learn vocabulary fundamentals including parts of speech, definition, connotation, word categorization and word math (roots, prefixes and suffixes). Students will learn strategies and practice different kinds of vocabulary exams, including multiple choice, fill in the blank, and vocabulary-in-context passages similar to what they will encounter on in-class and standardized tests. They will practice words-in-context through readings covering many topics and styles, both fiction and nonfiction, to expose students to a wide range of materials and ideas that they can further seek outside the classroom. In the second semester, the class will work together to read common

“difficult” texts by authors from Shakespeare to Faulkner, so that students are prepared when they encounter them in the classroom. Students will receive periodic homework reading assignments and be expected to study and memorize assigned vocabulary.

Timed Writing (8-10 and up)

In this class, students will practice various in-class writing assignments, including free write, descriptive, summary, character analysis, literary analysis, compare/contrast, 5-paragraph, argumentative, personal, history, and expository essays. Timed writings will range from 10 to 50 minutes and include the kinds of essays encountered on STAAR, SAT and ACT. Students and the teacher will share their completed essays with each other in order to learn and grow in confidence as they encounter different examples and ideas.

Literary Analysis and Essay Writing (8-9 and up)

In this class, students will learn fundamentals of literary analysis. They will complete daily in-class readings that cover many topics and styles, both fiction and nonfiction, to expose students to a wide range of materials and ideas, accompanied with class discussion. Then, students will put their knowledge of literary terms and their reading skills together to write various kinds of analysis essays including characterization, compare/contrast, literary and rhetorical. Though the majority of the work is done in class, students will receive periodic homework in the form of readings or essays to complete.