

Mr. Arresto's Class Overview

Creative Writing is a projects-based honors-level class. Our class will meet every other day for the entire school year. Unlike most classes at Grand, Creative Writing is a pass/fail course - there will be no numerical grade come report card time.

For all major projects in this class, steps 1-4 of the writing process (*prewriting, drafting, revising, editing*) will be done in school. Step 5 (a.k.a. *publishing*, or typing the final copy) will be done at home. Final copies may be emailed to me as an attachment if your printer is broken/out of ink. I do **NOT** accept printer malfunction excuses. Be sure to hit your deadlines!

Approach – Most classes will be conducted in the workshop format which consists of four parts:

- 1) **The Mini-Lesson** – I rarely teach for more than 10-20 minutes. I will briefly present a new concept, tip, or strategy and then you will spend most of the period experimenting with said technique.
- 2) **The Writing Workshop** – This is the time when you will be doing the bulk of your work. Attitude, behavior, and work ethic during the writing workshop will be weighed heavily when determining whether you pass or fail.
- 3) **The Group Share** – This part of the workshop will not be used every class, but often enough. Here I will take volunteers to read something that they have written over the course of the period. Aim to share something you've written at least once per marking period.
- 4) **The Status-of-the-Class-Conference** – Here I will quickly whip around the room and ask how each student is coming along on a particular piece.

Grades

- You do not receive a numerical grade for the quarter – **you either pass or fail (P or F)**.
- You will receive alphabetic grades (A-F) for your writing assignments and numeric grades (1-100) for tests and quizzes.
- **You may redo any writing assignment and resubmit for a new grade – I reward hard work. You MUST attend extra help in order to redo a writing assignment.**
- Extra help will be held on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:41 - 3:16 PM in room 141.
- Each quarter there will be one major writing project which we work on for 4-6 weeks. Failure to submit this project will result in failure for the marking period.
- **Any failing tests/projects must be signed by a parent or guardian.**

Supplies

- A marble notebook which will be your journal. It **cannot** be a spiral.
- A small (1") binder for notes divided into two sections: 1) *Reading & Writing*; 2) *Notes*

I prefer that you DO NOT share with another class.

- A highlighter, pens, pencils, white out, erasers, reinforcements, plenty of loose leaf paper – everything necessary to be a well-prepared student.

Class Guidelines

1. Always give your best effort. Try your hardest on every assignment, and you **will** improve over the course of the year.
2. Remember – Grand **CARES**. Be kind and helpful to your classmates. Respect your teacher, your peers, and our classroom. I expect all students to behave like mature young adults.
3. Work to the bell . . . or at least until I say it's time to pack up. **If one student packs up early, the whole class stays after the bell.**
4. Wait until I'm done talking/teaching to use the garbage, sharpener, dictionaries, etc. It is extremely rude to just stand up and start walking around the room as a teacher is speaking.
5. Use “please” and “thank you.” Basic manners go a long way in life.
6. NEVER throw anything in our classroom. If someone needs to borrow a pen, get up and hand it to him/her.
7. Please wait until I have finished giving the mini lesson to ask to use the restroom. You must take the pass whenever you leave the classroom.
8. It is against the rules to chew gum at Grand Avenue, but in case I miss that you are chewing gum, be sure to throw it out *in a garbage can* when you are done with it.
9. Please don't walk into the classroom and ask to go to the bathroom, your locker, the office, the nurse, your previous classroom, guidance, or anywhere else. You will be allowed to get what you need or use the restroom **after** you have copied the HW, and I have explained the goal for the day or have given the mini-lesson.
10. If you are absent the day an assignment is due, you are expected to email it to me that day. I will consider the assignment late if you do not. If you have extenuating circumstances, it is your responsibility to speak with me the day you get back or email me prior to that.
11. Show up on time and prepared. **Three unexcused latenesses in a marking period will result in detention. Being unprepared will negatively affect your attitude grade.**
12. “My printer is broken/out of ink” has become the “my dog ate my homework” of the 21st Century. **I never accept this excuse.** If your printer really is broken, email the assignment to me AS AN ATTACHMENT or save it to a flash drive and print it in the library.
13. Respect substitute teachers as much as you respect your daily teachers. If you misbehave or are insubordinate for a substitute, you will receive lunch detention in 208 (the Dean's Office).

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