“Discovering Your Own Literacy”

Objectives

The purpose of this course is for students to become more confident and competent as readers and writers at the college level. You will be shown how to expand your sentence structures in order to write more effectively. You will be shown how to respond to texts, interpret them, and find meaning. By practicing language weekly, you will acquire the language skills for EG 10 through experience and development.

Procedures

Immersion You will be reading models of good writing and sharing your responses to them in discussion groups. You will be given some time in class to get started on your reading and writing.

Demonstration You will benefit from reading good writing, and seeing my writing and your classmates’ writing to see how texts are conceived, constructed, and used.

Response You will be upheld in your efforts – acknowledged and supported – as those around you respond with interest to your words and work.

Skills

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

1. Organize and write preliminary drafts of a series of short papers and review those preliminary drafts to focus on a main idea.

2. Support that main idea in clear, well-ordered paragraphs developed by specific details, examples, or reasons.

3. Write varied and appropriate sentences which have been carefully edited to eliminate major errors in mechanics and usage.

Grading Policy

4 Pieces of Writing Typed (one of these is a “Cover Letter”)
3 “On Demand” Pieces of Writing
7 = Eligible to Pass
(If you do not produce the work listed above when it is due, you could lose your eligibility to pass. If you do not participate in class, you could also lose your eligibility to pass. Near the end of the course, you will put your pieces of writing in a presentation folder to be read by me and another professor. If we both agree that your completed writing meets the EG 10 standards, you pass and move on to EG 11. If one of us disagrees, your work is read by a third professor. If two professors agree you pass, then you pass. If two professors feel that your work does not meet the EG 10 standards, you do not pass.)

Books
- Any new or used grammar and usage or writer’s reference book. We will discuss titles in class

Materials
- A sturdy folder for handouts and work-in-progress
- A spiral notebook (70 pages, wide-ruled) for first drafts and writing exercises

Course Calendar

Aug. 31  Introduction to the Course. Icebreaker. Writing a Memoir. Finding Topics.
          The rule of “So what?” Assignment: Brainstorming topics.
Sept. 7   Memoir: Focus, Purpose. “Show; don’t tell.” Setting. Character.
Sept. 9   **Rosh Hashanah – No Classes**
          Expanding your repertoire of sentence structures: Appositive structures.
Sept. 21  **All College Day – No Day or Evening Classes**
Sept. 28  Tension, Turn, Resolution
Sept. 30  Expanding your repertoire of sentence structures: Absolute Structures.
Oct. 5    Reviewing all the techniques of the personal essay.
Oct. 7    **MEMOIR DUE.** Literary Analysis Models.
Oct. 12   More Literary Analysis models.
Oct. 14   Timed piece of writing ("On Demand") written in class.
Oct. 26   First draft of literary analysis due. Lessons That Change Writers: “ICE,”
          the logic of a paragraph.
Oct. 28   Expanding your repertoire of sentence structures: Parallel Structure
          ‘Mid-Semester: Students who submit a withdrawal form
          on or before this date are guaranteed a grade of “W”
Nov. 2  Literary Analysis due. Introduce Comparison/Contrast Essay.  
    Compare/Contrast two films (to be announced)
Nov. 4  View and Critique first film
Nov. 9  View and Critique second film
Nov. 11 Discuss organizational plan for Comparison/Contrast essay
Nov. 16 First draft of Comparison/Contrast essay due.  
    Timed piece of writing ("On Demand") written in class.
Nov. 18 Final Draft of Comparison/Contrast Essay due.
Nov. 23 Expanding your repertoire of sentence structures: Noun substitutes
Nov. 25 Discuss “Reflection on Myself as a Writer” cover letter.
    Thanksgiving – No Classes
Nov. 30 First draft of “Reflection on Myself as a Writer” cover letter.
Dec. 2  Final draft of “Reflection on Myself as a Writer” cover letter.
Dec. 7  Timed piece of writing ("On Demand") written in class.
Dec. 9  Final Portfolio due.
Dec. 14 Introduction to Library Research.
Dec. 16 Research Paper Skills: How to Quote, Summarize, or Paraphrase without committing plagiarism.
Dec. 21 Last day of class. EG 10 Showcase: students will read aloud their best writin

Requirements

1. You should be writing on a regular basis. Each essay must be at least 700 words. Late papers could jeopardize your eligibility to pass. If you hand in papers late, I can’t get them back to you according to schedule, and you will fall behind the rest of the class. If you consistently hand in papers late, you may be asked to withdraw from the course.
2. You are to work cooperatively within the community of writers in this class, listening to drafts of other writers and serving as an interested reader. You are to participate actively in your group discussions.

Plagiarism

It is very important that you submit your own work so that you can practice the craft of writing and receive feedback for your improvement. If you plagiarize (copy someone else’s work and pass it off as your own), your piece of writing will receive a zero grade and you will probably fail the course.
Attendance

Attendance is important. You cannot pass this course unless you are in class on a regular basis. The maximum number of absences you are allowed is Four (4). Classes begin on time. Arrival after fifteen minutes will count as half an absence, as will leaving early (please notify me that you are leaving early). Plan accordingly. After having used Four absences, you will automatically receive a drop-fail on your fifth absence no matter what the reason.

Cell Phones

If you need to keep your cell phone on for emergency calls (emergency calls are very rare), then that is acceptable. However, if you are receiving calls so frequently that it distracts you as well as the class, you will be asked to keep your cell phone off. Text messaging is NOT permitted in class. You will be asked to put your cell phone away and out of sight.

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