



Summer Term Outline (July-August)

Academic Writing (Grade 7-8)

Instructor: Mrs. Allison Birch

Platform: Weekly Zoom Sessions (90 minutes) Thursdays 7-830pm Toronto Time

Course Introduction:

This advanced writing workshop refines academic writing, research, and analytical thinking. Students will explore argument structures, research methods, and stylistic techniques through writing exercises, peer collaboration, and text analysis. Weekly workshops will develop persuasive, analytical, and research-based writing skills.

Objective: To enhance advanced writing skills through argumentation, critical analysis, and research integration.

Week 1: Advanced Argumentation

- **Goals:** Construct multi-faceted arguments and critique logical fallacies. •
- Activities:** Analyze essays, write thesis statements with counterarguments. •
- Homework:** Analytical essay on a controversial issue.

Week 2: Comparative Analysis

- **Goals:** Compare opposing viewpoints and craft balanced arguments. •
- Activities:** Analyze texts with differing perspectives.
- **Homework:** Comparative essay on two contrasting ideas.

Week 3: Research-Based Writing

- **Goals:** Integrate evidence and evaluate sources effectively.
- **Activities:** Practice paraphrasing and citation methods.
- **Homework:** Research-based essay with sourced evidence.

Week 4: Style and Tone

- **Goals:** Adapt voice for different audiences and purposes.
- **Activities:** Analyze tone shifts and revise for clarity.
- **Homework:** Rewrite an essay for a new audience.

Week 5: Persuasive Techniques

- **Goals:** Use rhetorical devices and refute counterarguments.
- **Activities:** Analyze famous speeches and practice rebuttals.
- **Homework:** Persuasive letter using advanced rhetorical techniques.

Week 6: Analytical Reading and Response

- **Goals:** Evaluate complex texts and respond analytically.
- **Activities:** Close reading and writing responses.
- **Homework:** Response essay to a challenging passage.

Week 7: Peer Review and Editing

- **Goals:** Apply advanced editing techniques and offer feedback.
- **Activities:** Peer review workshops and self-editing.
- **Homework:** Revise two essays for final submission.

Week 8: Synthesis and Writing Toolkit

- **Goals:** Reinforce key skills, review concepts, and prepare for future academic writing. •

Activities:

- Writing games to practice advanced techniques.
- Share and discuss revised works.
- Create a personalized "Writing Toolkit" with tips for future writing.

Course Materials: All applicable readings will be available on Canvas for the given

week • *They Say / I Say* by Gerald Graff & Cathy Birkenstein

• *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk Jr. & E.B. White

• Supplementary readings on Canvas