

Instructor: Mrs. Allison Birch

Format: Live Online via Zoom – 90 minutes

Term 2: April 27 – June 22, 2026

Theme: *Mastering Academic Writing: Analysis, Research, and Persuasive Power*

Introduction:

Term 2 is all about **leveling up your academic writing skills**. Over eight weeks, you'll tackle longer essays, integrate multiple sources, and analyze texts at a deeper level. You'll refine persuasive writing, strengthen research and citation skills, and continue to weave creative strategies into your academic work to make it more engaging. By the end of the term, you'll have a **polished portfolio that demonstrates growth, skill, and style**.

Note: Example readings are provided for each week, but some selections may change depending on class interests or availability.

Term 2 Objectives:

By the end of Term 2, students will be able to:

1. Write multi-paragraph persuasive essays with counterarguments and rebuttals.
2. Analyze literature and media critically using textual evidence.
3. Integrate multiple research sources with proper citations.
4. Apply academic style, sentence fluency, and precise word choice.
5. Use creative techniques strategically to strengthen analysis and arguments.
6. Produce a polished portfolio demonstrating growth in academic writing.

Weekly Snapshot

Week 1 – Narrative Techniques for Academic Analysis

- **What's exciting:** Discover how stories are crafted and learn to analyze the techniques authors use to communicate meaning.
- **Activities:** Identify narrative strategies, academic paragraph writing, optional creative scene rewrite
- **Reading Examples:** *Rules of the Game* (Amy Tan)

Week 2 – Figurative Language and Evidence

- **What's exciting:** Learn how metaphors, imagery, and figurative language can make your analysis stronger and more precise.
- **Activities:** Identify figurative language, write analytical paragraph, 3-line creative poem illustrating analysis
- **Reading Examples:** *A Small Kindness* (Danusha Lameris), *Valentine for Ernest Mann* (Naomi Shihab Nye)

Week 3 – Multi-Paragraph Essay Structure

- **What's exciting:** Plan and organize essays so ideas flow clearly and persuasively.
- **Activities:** Outline essays, paragraph sequencing, peer review of outlines
- **Reading Examples:** Mentor persuasive essays

Week 4 – Persuasive Essays: Argument + Rebuttal

- **What's exciting:** Make your essays convincing by including strong counterarguments and rebuttals.
- **Activities:** Counterargument workshop, ethos/pathos/logos application, creative scenario example
- **Reading Examples:** Student-friendly editorials, opinion articles

Week 5 – Research Integration and Synthesis

- **What's exciting:** Turn multiple sources into one cohesive, evidence-rich paragraph that strengthens your argument.
- **Activities:** Summarizing, synthesizing, MLA citation practice, evaluating credibility
- **Reading Examples:** age and grade appropriate research articles, TED Talk transcripts

Week 6 – Academic Style and Revision

- **What's exciting:** Make your essays polished, professional, and easy to read.
- **Activities:** Sentence fluency exercises, peer editing, revision practice
- **Reading Examples:** Mentor paragraphs from *Introduction to Academic Writing*

Week 7 – Literary Analysis: Evidence in Action

- **What's exciting:** Use evidence to explain what authors really mean—and make your analysis persuasive.
- **Activities:** Annotating, drafting literary analysis paragraph, creative scene rewrite
- **Reading Examples:** *The Fun They Had* (Isaac Asimov)

Week 8 – Final Portfolio & Celebration

- **What's exciting:** Showcase your strongest work and celebrate your growth as a writer!
- **Activities:** Peer review, final edits, reflective essay, optional presentation