

# Central Visual Performing Arts High School

## *Creative Writing*

Instructor: Elizabeth Foster

Email: [Elizabeth.Foster@slps.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Foster@slps.org)

Classroom: 208

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### **Course Description:**

The goal of this course is to reinforce, explore, and build upon communication skills that are essential for continued academic growth in future educational experiences. Students will participate in class discussions by listening and responding respectfully to their peers' perspectives and ideas. They will focus on the writing process, a variety of writing styles, paragraph and essay organization, and revision. To achieve these goals students will also study a variety of writing styles through varying assignment options and the creation of a portfolio of their work.

### **Course Objectives:**

Students will:

1. Organize thoughts and ideas in a variety mediums, genres and structures with clarity and purpose
2. Demonstrate knowledge of literary devices by evaluating their use in literature and utilizing them in their own writing
3. Demonstrate comfort in evaluating, discussing, and providing feedback on both published and peer writing be knowledgeable of the elements of constructive feedback
4. Experiment with using language creatively for a purpose
5. Understand and participate in the writing process
6. Identify and evaluate elements of fiction in literature and utilize them in their own writing
7. Evaluate author's use of voice and style in literature
8. Demonstrate their own voice and style as a writer

### **Topics**

1. Personal Narrative
2. Mediums and Structures
3. Genres of Fiction
4. Poetry

### **Classroom Expectations:**

You are expected to conduct yourself in a respectful and productive manner. In addition to all the rules and expectations listed in the Student and Parent Handbook, I expect you to have a positive attitude, treat others with respect, practice self-discipline, and demonstrate responsibility and accountability. If these conditions are not met, you can expect one-on-one meetings with me, parent/instructor conferencing, and administrative action, if necessary.

#### **Concerning the use of cell phones and other electronic devices:**

Devices should be on silent and kept in your purse, backpack, or pocket during class unless otherwise instructed. You may NOT place it on your desk. Parents, guardians, and other family members should call the front office in case of emergency. If you violate this rule you can expect consequences per the CVPA policy.

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### ***Grading Policy:***

Major assignments (final papers/projects) will account for 70 percent of your grade. Homework and classwork will account for 30 percent of your grade. Grades will be updated every 2 weeks in SIS. You will receive 4 progress reports and 2 report cards each school year.

### ***Academic Integrity:***

Ms. Foster has extremely high regard for academic integrity and, as such, has zero tolerance for any and all forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to, all forms of cheating on any assessments, essays, or assignments (copying, taking pictures, group chats with answers, etc.), plagiarism, and any other unethical academic behavior. Any student in violation will receive no credit (zero/F letter grade), a family meeting will be scheduled, and a notation of the violation will be in the student's school record.

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as Chat GPT, has the potential for misuse and often borders on plagiarism. At Metro, we utilize Turnitin to disrupt plagiarism and ensure the integrity of ALL student work. If it is deemed that a student has used any AI tool to complete an assignment, the student will receive no credit (zero/F letter grade), a family meeting will be scheduled, as well as a notation of the violation in the student's school record.

### ***Make-up Work Policy***

Make-up tests will **ONLY** be given to a student who has an **excused absence**. **The student must make arrangements with the teacher to take a make-up test.** A student only has two chances (the next two class periods after an absence) to make up a test.

Homework/Classwork: Students who are absent for **excused reasons** will be permitted to make up missed work. **It is the student's responsibility to get their assignments the day upon their return to school and complete the assignments according to a timeframe determined by the teacher within two weeks of the date of the last absence. Grades of zero will be assigned for assignments missed because of unexcused absences.** No missing work will be accepted after a period of 3 weeks. Late work will have 10% deducted per day it is late.

### ***Text and Other Required Reading:***

#### Text Book:

*Writing About Writing* by Elizabeth Wardle and Doug Downs

### ***Materials and Supplies Needed:***

#### Classwork Notebooks:

1. In class writing activities, notes, short writing prompts, journal entries, and anything that sparks your inspiration!

#### Portfolios:

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1. For each unit of study students will compose one major assignment- with the exception of poetry which will require students to compose and perform a series of poems. All pieces will be compiled into their portfolio for the end of the course.
2. Students will use Teams to submit all written work and ask Ms. Foster to print final copies for portfolios.
3. At the end of each unit students should place or organize their polished final copy, their edited draft, and peer feedback in their portfolio in this order.
4. These portfolio entries will be submitted via Teams for grading and then into a three ring binder with clearly labeled binder tabs for each assignment. Ms. Foster will provide you with a binder.
5. Final portfolios will be graded exclusively on completion! I am interested in your growth as a writer, not in perfection!

### Major Assignment Options

Unit	Assignment	Description
Personal Narrative	Personal Narrative	A personal narrative is a story about you! You may choose to write a story about anything about yourself, but it must be factual and follow a formal plot structure with a rising action, climax, falling action and resolution. It could be about a time you had a conflict with a friend or a time when you overcame an obstacle in your life.
Personal Narrative	College Readiness Essay *Not a strictly creative assignment but necessary as a format that will be written many times.	It will soon be time to start applying for colleges! Whether you're attending a university or trade school, there is an application process. For this assignment you will respond to the following prompt: <b>Describe a challenge or obstacle you've overcome and what you've learned from this experience.</b>
Personal Narrative	Personal Biography	You are tasked with writing a personal biography about yourself. In your biography you will inform the audience of your past, current, and future! You can complete this in first or third person perspective.
Mediums and Structures	Marketing Plan	For this project you will choose a non-profit organization to work with and design a marketing plan that helps them achieve their donation goals.
Mediums and Structures	Argumentative Essay *Not a strictly creative assignment but necessary as a format that will be written many times.	For this argumentative essay your topic should focus on a current event or ideal that appears controversial. Although you are selecting your own topic, your essay should not be offensive in nature- please be kind to others and yourself.
Mediums and Structures	Children's Book/ Graphic Novel	Children's Book: you will write and illustrate a children's book following a plot structure that you develop. Your book must have various characters, an engaging plot, and graphics to match the story! (Age group K-3rd Grade)  Graphic Novel: You've been hired by a publisher to design and write a graphic novel version of your favorite fiction book! For example The Hunger Games or Divergent! You will develop the graphic novel for that particular book! (Age group 5th- 10th Grade)
Mediums and Structures	Social Media Campaign	For this project you have been hired by your favorite brand/company/influencer to develop a social media campaign for their latest product or project. THINK

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		OUTSIDE THE BOX! Social Justice, climate change, and various other social change initiatives are also big and can be used for your own social media campaign ideas for this project.
Mediums and Structures	Soliloquy	This is a monologue in which a character of your own creation speaks to themselves. They should be expressing their inner thoughts to an audience. IF you would like to write a soliloquy for a character from a movie, book, or show you must speak with me for approval.
Genres of Fiction	Screenplay	You have been hired to write and develop a screenplay for an upcoming thriller that will show in theaters next year! Your screenplay must use dialogue, plot structure, and imagery to capture the entire story of the movie.  EXTRA CREDIT: "Hire" a group of classmates to act out your short screenplay in front of class with you directing!
Genres of Fiction	Horror Story	Write a horror story that is a fully developed narrative. Your story should be UNIQUE and unlike any other horror story that currently exists. It is time to delve into your imagination and develop something eerie and spooky!
Genres of Fiction	Sensory Story	You will write a sensory story that focuses on imagery to create a picture for the reader. Your goal here is to SHOW the reader, not just TELL them the story. PULL THE READER INTO THE STORY USING THE 5 SENSES!
Genres of Fiction	Twisted Fairytale OR Traditional Fairytale	You have been hired to write a fairytale. Your fairytale will have a clear protagonist and antagonist. The publishing company that hired you would like the hero and villain to be something OTHER than human AND include a magical element as well as a twisted aspect that changes things from the Happily Ever After ending to a Not So Happily Ever After.  If opting for the traditional fairytale you need a hero and villain that are something not quite fully human, include a magical element, a well developed plot, and a Happily Ever After ending!
Poetry	Series of Shakespearean Sonnets	Write a series of love poems based on the type of love story from the Disney movie UP! Begin with a crush and flow through the little old couple together on their porch in rocking chairs OR write about unrequited love.
Poetry	Slam Poem	Write and perform a slam poem of your own creation! Choose a Speech Act, choose a theme, choose a tone or range of tones. Decide how you want to grab the audience's attention, and then choose metaphors CAREFULLY to paint your poem in beautiful language. YOU WILL HAVE TO PERFORM YOUR POEM. (handout will be provided and examples shown in class)
Poetry	Series of Seasonal Haikus	A series of poems (4 minimum) that fit the haiku format- accompany your haikus with seasonal imagery. Be ready to share your lovely writing with the class!
Poetry	Narrative Poem	A narrative poem tells a story! Tell a story in a poem form! It does not have to rhyme, but bonus points may be given to those who do! Look at poems like "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge for examples!

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FINAL ASSIGNMENT	REFLECTION	Reflect on your writing throughout the course and answer given prompts: In what ways did your creative writing improve through the activities you selected? Which projects appealed to you the most and why? How do you see yourself using creative writing in the future? In what areas are you still working towards improving?
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Grading Scale	
%	Letter Grade
90-100	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% or lower	F

Proficiency Scale		
4	Extending	In addition to meeting the standard, student work exhibits in-depth inferences and applications that exceed standard expectations
3	Meeting Expectations	Student work exhibits no major errors or omissions
2	Progressing	Student work exhibits no major errors or omissions regarding the simpler details and processes however, the student exhibits major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and processes
1	Emergent	With support, the student demonstrates a partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes and some of the more complex ideas and processes
0	No Evidence	No evidence to indicate the student's understanding of the skill

Greetings CVPA parents and students and welcome back to a new school year! I congratulate you on accepting the challenge of Creative Writing. Through the study of various writing forms, we will examine the changes in writing and culture. As part of this program, I ask you to read at least **three** books over the year. One of these books should be nonfiction from the list provided below. This year we will use Microsoft Teams for assignments and reminders and announcements.

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As you progress through your independent books, please post comments on Teams in your class notebook; these can be significant quotes with your reactions, reflections on writing styles and language within the text, or questions you may have. The postings should be one or two paragraphs. I will be checking weekly and will answer questions and leave my comments.

I will be assigning a separate essay of your reading to assess your writing skills and comprehension skills in a more analytical manner- this is a less creative aspect, but some of our work in class is not going to be purely creative in nature.

I want to also take a moment to notify you all that beginning in January I will be out on maternity leave. I know that this presents an interruption to things, however students will have all the skills and things needed to complete the work assigned while I am out of the building with my newborn. If you have any questions please email me at [elizabeth.foster@slps.org](mailto:elizabeth.foster@slps.org).

Please sign and date below to affirm that you have read and understand this syllabus and the course requirements and return to Ms. Foster by August 27th.

Sincerely,

Ms. Elizabeth Foster

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Printed name and date

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Printed name and date

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature