

# Writing Lab

## Course Syllabus and Expectations 2016-2017

### Silverton High School

#### Mrs. Sinn

#### Course Summary

Writing Lab is designed to provide additional support beyond the required English credits towards the goal of meeting standards in the state writing assessment. In this individual-oriented class, students will gain understanding of the scoring system used statewide to assess writing and use it to target their individual areas of development. The process of writing, from developing ideas to revising and editing complete drafts, will be emphasized.

#### Keys for Success in Writing Lab

- Attend class every day! The more class time you miss, the less you learn.
- Arrive in class on time and prepared with all materials. Late arrivals disrupt the class and cut into your time to learn.
- Focus on your work during class, and ask yourself (or me) how you can improve.
- Set goals for success and achievement - even small ones go a long way.
- Participate in class discussions and group assignments. Practice active listening as much as you practice speaking.

#### Areas of Focus

**Modes of writing:** We will explore writing *expository* and *persuasive* essays. *Narrative and imaginative* writing may be addressed as well, depending on the readiness of the class.

**Pre-Writing:** We will spend significant time working on pre-writing activities of brainstorming, utilizing graphic organizers, and preparing functional outlines. Understanding how to get started on a writing task, how to develop initial ideas, and how to organize ideas will be especially emphasized.

**Sentence Fluency and Conventions:** We will work towards writing that *sounds* good when read (fluency) and uses proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation to make it easy to read on the page (conventions).

#### Required Materials

**Supplies:** Bring the following to class every day:

Spiral notebook and paper  
an independent reading book

a blue or black pen  
highlighters (if possible)

#### Classroom Policies

**Tardiness:** Students who arrive in class after the bell has rung are marked tardy.

**Absence:** For each day a student is absent, he/she will be given one day to make up an assignment for full credit.

**Bathroom Use:** Students must ask permission to use the bathroom and need a bathroom pass. Excessive time out of the classroom will be discouraged. Students may not use the bathroom pass for the first or last 10 minutes of class.

**Food and Beverages:** Students may bring beverages in a spill-proof container to class. If you have food, please put it on the side counter and pick it up when you leave.

**Cell phones/iPods:** Cell phones must out of sight during class time. If I see or hear one in use, I will take it. If it happens repeatedly, I will assign lunch detention. Music players may be used in class *only* when I expressly allow it.

**Dismissal: This one is especially important to me.** It is disrespectful to begin gathering your things while a lesson is being completed, so please don't. Repeated instances of will result in lunch detention.

**Academic Honesty:** Any cheating, copying, or plagiarism will result in a zero (0) grade for the assignment and possible admin and parental notification. These assignments may not be made up. A second instance of academic dishonesty in any form will result in parent and administration notification.

### **Consequences**

*Failure to adhere to the SHS and classroom policies may result in the following consequences:*

Warning

Detention

Parent conference

Administrative referral and/or notification

### **Grading Policy**

You will be scored on the four writing traits: ideas and content, organization, sentence fluency, and conventions.

### **Contact Information**

Parents/guardians and students should contact me with any questions or concerns you have. I am available before or after school and will be as helpful as I possibly can! I am here to help you learn and succeed.

Melissa Sinn Room A101

E-mail: sinn\_melissa@silverfalls.k12.or.us

Phone: (503) 873-6331 ext. #3788

7:30-7:50 A.M. Other times by appointment

I look forward to working with all of you and having a challenging and successful year!

**Please cut on the line and turn the signed sheet into me.**

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**I have read and understand the above syllabus.**

**Student Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I have the following questions, comments, and/or feedback:**