

ACES Learning Center Course Syllabus W106 Creative Writing: Applied Grammar

Course Description

ACES Creative Writing I challenges students to master English grammar through concentrated study of detailed points of English grammar, then reinforces concepts using sentence-composing and longer creative-writing exercises. This class uses the grammar textbook by Tim Mathew's, *The Adventures of Genius Boy and Grammar Girl*.

Course Objectives and Student Competencies

- gain a solid foundation in English grammar concepts used in middle-school and high-school
- gain a deeper, intuitive understanding of grammar concepts and reinforce learning through writing applications
- gain skill as writers and develop creative-thinking and imagination through poetry and fiction

Class Structure

Class begins with a quiz over the previous week's grammar topic and checking the previous week's grammar homework. The current week's grammar topic is introduced, then students apply new knowledge through sentence-composing and other short writing exercises. Finally, students share the previous week's creative writing with the class and analyze each other's work for both accuracy of grammar and effectiveness/impact of writing.

Homework consists of grammar exercises from the text and other grammar exercises as assigned. In addition, each week students will complete a creative-writing assignment that showcases grammar points studied during that week and previous weeks (1.5 - 2 hours per week).

Course Schedule:

Date	Grammar Topics	Writing Topics	Homework
Week 1	Effective use of Quotes and Rhetorical Questions Subjects and Predicates Review of Punctuation Rules	Begin narratives with strong leads.	Proofreading Exercise Onomatopoeia Writing
Week 2	Review of Parts of Speech Run-on's and Sentence Fragments	Recognize and use correct, effective sentence construction	Proofreading Exercise II Developing Characters
Week 3	Combining sentences- FANBOYS	Generating interest through sentence variety.	Editing Exercise
Week 4	Choosing the correct preposition Appositives and Dangling Modifiers	Transitions and flashbacks Words to show location and time	Writing Exercise I
Week 5	Subject and verb agreement Pronoun/ antecedent agreement	Recognize standard usage and appropriate word choice	Writing Exercise III
Week 6	Use conventions: capitalization and punctuation Commonly confused words (Their/they're, it's its, et al.)	Revising and editing writing. Standard editing symbols	Writing Exercise III
Week 7	Using thesaurus and online tools Review of parts of speech	Add voice and energy to writing with vivid verbs, specific nouns, adverbs, and adjectives.	Writing Exercise IV
Week 8	Quotation marks Paragraphing	Writing effective dialogue.	Writing Exercise V
Week 9	Verb tense, number, person	Adding voice and energy II	Writing Exercise VI
Week 10	Parallel Construction Gerunds and Infinitives	Repetition and Alliteration	Final Writing Project
Week 11	Like vs. As (Simile and Metaphor)	Using figurative language	Course Evaluation