



ACES Academic Enrichment Center

2019 Summer Enrichment Course Syllabus

Course Name: Personal Essay Writing for 6th – 8th Graders

Course Description

ACES Personal Essay Writing serves as foundation course for college-entrance essay writing and explores components needed to create a reflective essay, an essay in which the writer examines his or her experiences in life. Students will write about those experiences, exploring how he or she has changed, developed, or grown from those experiences while understanding audience. While personal narratives focus more on plot and storytelling, personal essays tend to be more self-reflective and analytical. Students will write more about themselves and their character, focusing on the *why* behind the story instead of the how an event took place. Personal essay writing helps students become better analytical and critical thinkers, examining their own life experiences in the process.

Course Objectives and Student Competencies

- Gain skills necessary to write strong personal essays
- Become more fluent in use of advanced grammatical constructions and vocabulary through writing applications

Class Structure

Class begins with a short writing assignment to introduce a new topic to the discussion. Students will learn and practice new elements of personal essay writing in order to gain familiarity using it in practice. Students share their writing and gain practice proofreading. Finally, students will prepare for the homework assignment.

Date	Topics	Homework
6/24	Personal Essay Writing – types and elements	Essay Log # 1
6/25	Brainstorming personal topics with opportunities to reflect	Essay Log #2
6/26	Organizing and writing personal essays for specific audiences	Essay Log #3
6/27	Using strong descriptions and reflecting in complex ways	Essay Log #4
6/28	Editing, detail, varying sentence lengths	