

Writing/ELA 7
Ms. Maddack
Room 122B

Why Writing?:

Words have power. With great power comes great responsibility. My goal is to help you harness that power responsibly.

Course outline: We'll be focusing on informative and persuasive writing the first semester, and narrative and research writing in the second semester. However, we will be learning a little bit of all four of these modes as we go through the year since each type of writing builds on the others.

Agendas: Use it however will help you best. (See page 17 of the Student Handbook.)

Grading procedure: Grades will be updated once a week or so. Please be patient. If you know you'll need a grade by a particular date, e-mail Ms. Maddack ahead of time.

Do This Now: Daily instructions on the board for how you should be starting class. This is also when you will complete your bellwork.

Bellwork: Daily question to be answered AND SAVED. Every Friday, that week's worth of Bellwork will be turned in on Canvas.

Major Grades/homework: Most grades in this class will be writing assignments. Class time will be provided to finish the assignments. If a student uses class time wisely, they shouldn't have homework. If a student does NOT use class time wisely, completing the writing assignment becomes homework.

Freewrite Friday: Every Friday at the beginning of class, you will have an opportunity to write about whatever you want (that you're okay with me seeing) for 5 minutes. Sometimes I will have questions you can answer if you feel stuck.

We do Freewrite Friday to build writing fluency. The more you write, the stronger of a writer you become- just like running or lifting weights to become a stronger athlete.

Freewrites can also help you get things that have been bothering you off your mind- sometimes writing things down can be as helpful as talking to a friend.

Late work: Turn your assignments in, even if they're late. I'm not going to chase down missing assignments. They'll be marked as zeroes in the gradebook until they are turned in, so that's on you.

Listen to me- do not take this generosity as a free pass. If you consistently turn things in late, you will eventually hate yourself, especially if you try to do a bunch of assignments at once. Make us both happy, and just use the class time you're given to complete the assignment.

Cheating/Plagiarism: NO. For more information on the consequences of these poor life choices, read “Academic Honesty” on page 24 of the Student Handbook.

N.B. I know what a seventh grader’s writing looks like. I know what your writing looks like. If you plagiarize, I will know. Spare us both the awkward conversation (which I will not hesitate to have) and do your own work. I’d much rather receive your assignment than someone else’s.

Class rules:

- 1) Let the teacher teach.
- 2) Let your classmates learn.
- 3) Respect yourself, as a student, as a person, and as a writer.
- 4) No unnecessary questions, but always ask questions that will help you learn. If you can Google it, Google it. If you don’t NEED to know, don’t ask (unless Ms. Maddack has said, “Any questions?”)

Student expectations:

-Read your surroundings when you come into class. Literally. What we’ll be doing in class that day will be on the white board, and what you’re supposed to do at the beginning of class will be projected onto the screen.

-Listen

-Pay attention

-If you’ve been paying attention, still don’t understand, and are pretty sure Ms. Maddack isn’t literally about to answer your question, ask questions to help you learn.

-Have a growth mindset: TRY instead of saying/thinking that you can’t.

Disciplinary action:

I have a binder clip warning system in this class. First warning: If I need to ask you to stop after that, you will go to the Reset Room and most likely receive an office referral.

If something’s going on that’s making you act out, tell me about it. I’ll try to help you out. If you don’t let me know what’s going on (your worst enemy is assembling an army to destroy you, you found out your dog can talk because he told you he likes your best friend more than you, your parents are secretly spies and they were supposed to come back from a mission on Monday but it’s Wednesday and you haven’t heard from them and what if what if what if) then there’s no way for me to help you.

My name is _____ and I understand the syllabus!