

LTT WRITING CLASSES 2020-2021

ABOUT LTT's WRITING PROGRAM: Our Intro to Writing, Writing B, and Writing C are based on middle school and high school writing levels from *Institute for Excellence in Writing* (www.iew.com). Many students will remain in the same writing classes for two years to solidify the concepts presented, giving them the confidence to move to a higher level of writing. Although the writing and grammar concepts do not change, the writing assignments rotate every other year within the level, creating little repetition for second-year students.

INTRODUCTION TO WRITING (1.5 hour tutorial) - In this 32-week course, students in grades 6-8 will be introduced to the foundations of writing using *Excellence in Writing's Level B Intensive* curriculum. Covering all nine of IEW's structural models, this class will alternate all year between the inventive writing units and the report writing units. Along with the nine IEW structural models, students will be taught some basic grammar rules and IEW's stylistic techniques to improve the syntax of their sentences. Students will build a binder throughout the year that includes some of the contents of the IEW Student Resource Notebook and many supplemental resources. Students should plan on about 2 hours of homework per week. All paragraphs/papers (rough drafts and final drafts) must be typed before submission (parents can help with this if needed) and must be handed in during class, not by e-mail. **NOTE:** Source materials are rotated every other year so that students can take this class for two years in a row in order to fully master the material.

In order to sign your child up for this introductory writing class: You, the parent, must be willing to help your child organize and manage this class on a weekly basis at home or your child will not be able to continue in the class. Because this class only meets for 1½ hours per week and students at this level often need more help, students rarely succeed when parents leave them on their own so parental involvement is essential. Also, because this is a writing class, your child must be able to hold a pencil properly and be able to write in complete sentences. If your child does have a learning or developmental disability and you want to sign them up for this class, you must first e-mail the tutor PRIOR to registering them for the class to make sure that the class will be a good fit for your student. Students with disabilities have taken this class and been very successful, but please be aware that you the parent will need to provide adequate support at home.

Required Materials: 2-inch, three-ring binder with 6 tab dividers (marked: models, style reference, style homework, grammar, thesaurus, compositions) a blue or black pen (NO PENCILS ALLOWED IN THIS CLASS), a colored pen or pencil (any color except red, black, or blue), and a highlighter. At this level students do not need to purchase a grammar book as the instructor will provide weekly grammar handouts.

Material Fee: \$55 per student which will cover the cost of the *IEW Level B* source materials and any other costs incurred for copies and materials which will be provided by the instructor.

Tutor: Allison Desautell, allisondesautell@gmail.com

Writing B (1.5 hour tutorial): This 32-week course is a continuation from LTT's Introduction to Writing class or it can be used as an accelerated entry course for a high schooler. Using *Excellence in Writing's Level B Continuation* curriculum as a starting point, students review the basic structural models and lay a solid foundation for essay writing by learning how to develop a working thesis statement, choose appropriate evidence, and integrate quotations. Because writing an essay is paramount to success in high school and college, during the second semester students will learn, in incremental lessons developed and classroom tested by the tutor, how to structure a basic argument essay. A good analogy for this class is that this class is to high school essay writing what Prealgebra is to Algebra—foundational! Along with reviewing basic grammar conventions and mastering IEW's stylistic techniques, students will add all of the IEW decorations to their writer's toolbox and imitate some famous authors' styles. Instead of a textbook, students will build a comprehensive binder throughout the year. Students should plan on about 3 hours of homework per week. All paragraphs/papers (rough drafts and final drafts) must be typed before submission and must be handed in during class, not by e-mail.

IMPORTANT NOTES: It has always been the norm at LTT that students remain in this level for two years so that they can truly master the material. Each year reviews the same concepts, but the source texts are rotated every other year so that students do not repeat much from the previous year and can take the class for two consecutive years. How to know if your student is ready for Level B? If your student successfully completed the introductory class without much help from their parent and the tutor recommended that they were ready, then they should be able to handle Level B. Just know, however, that they will probably remain in Level B for two consecutive years. Since this is also an **accelerated entry** class for high schoolers, if your high school student has any learning or neurological disabilities, it is best that you NOT put them in this class without their first taking the introductory class.

Required Materials: 2-inch, three-ring binder with 8 tab dividers (marked: models, style reference, style homework, grammar, thesaurus, compositions, and tests/quizzes), a blue or black pen, a colored pen or pencil (except red), and a highlighter. Because this class is taught so that students can take it for two consecutive years, a different grammar book will be used each year. This year students should purchase *Grammar for Middle School A Sentence Composing Approach* by Don and Jenny Killgallon, ISBN 9780325009568. This grammar book is not consumable, so you may purchase a used copy (Amazon has used copies that are very reasonable).

Materials Fee: \$55 per student which will cover the cost of the *IEW Level B Continuation* source materials which will be ordered by the instructor and any other costs incurred for copies and materials.

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Literary Composition (1.5 hour tutorial): Because analyzing and writing about the ideas found in literature are essential skills for high school students to learn, a literary composition class is being offered this year that is geared for students in grades 9-12 who have successfully completed one year of LTT's Writing B or an equivalent. This popular class was developed by the tutor as a foundational course for high school literary analysis and composition and has been successfully taught for 15 years. Each week students will read in a text, discuss it in class using the Socratic method, and write about what they have read using the writing skills learned in the Level B writing class. Texts are intentionally chosen for a variety of worldviews and text complexities, such as: multiple characters, narrators, and plots; non-linear time sequence; symbolic elements; or archaic language. Students will read from a wide variety of genres, including: *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway, *Witness* by Karen Hesse, and *Much Ado about Nothing* by William Shakespeare, along with short stories by O. Henry, Edgar Allan Poe, and other notable authors. As in all of her classes, the tutor breaks down writing the analytical essay into incremental lessons so that all students can succeed. Even if your student has read many of these books on their own, there are so many reasons for taking this class, such as: discerning an author's message and worldview, questioning everything they read using the Socratic method, learning how to slow down and annotate a text, writing coherent literary analysis paragraphs and essays, and effectively and politely participating in a robust dialectical discussion by backing up their opinion with evidence from the text. Students should plan on about 3-4 hours of homework per week. All paragraphs/papers must be typed before submission and must be handed in during class, not by e-mail.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This year a high school literature composition class is being offered and then the following year Writing Level C will be offered to high schoolers. This is so your high school student will be exposed to both analysis writing (literary) and synthesis writing (essay and research paper) over the course of two years. Both types of writing are essential for a college preparatory course.

Required materials you should purchase: 1 ½ inch, three-ring binder with 4-tab dividers (marked: study guide, handouts, writing, tests/quizzes), three ring binder paper, and a blue or black pen. I suggest that you buy used copies of all the books ahead of time so that students have all the books when they need them and can freely mark up the text. Using library books is not recommended for three reasons: We read through the books quickly, so it is difficult to stay on top of ordering them; students will need the books for longer than libraries allow; and if we are faced with another virus shutdown, ordering books from the library is impossible. Please know that if your student does not have the required book, they are still responsible for the work assigned and will receive a lower grade, so please don't put your student in this position. You may purchase any UNABRIDGED version of the books (and they can be used), except for *Much Ado About Nothing* which must be the No Fear version ISBN 9781411401013.

Materials Fee: \$55 per student which will cover the cost of any study guides and materials the tutor provides.

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