

Creative Writing

Alpine Academy College Prep H.S.

Mina Avery, PhD.

“If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others:

read a lot and write a lot.”

STEPHEN KING



Course Overview:

During class time, you will study and practice writing skills. You will read, analyze, and be inspired by model texts. You will learn about rhetorical devices, figurative language, and other strategies for achieving your purpose in writing. You will explore writing techniques and conventions. Most importantly you will be inspired to develop your own voice and literary skills.

Supplies:

- 3 x 5 cards (50)
- Notebook paper
- Pocket Dictionary
- Pocket Thesaurus
- Student Agenda Planner
- 3-ring binder
- Page Protectors (12)
- Pencil or pen
- Highlighter (three different colors)
- Fine White board pen with eraser on the top
- Composition Book

Major Work:

Each month you will explore a different written format.

Units/Genre	Skills and Themes
August: Memoir and Personal Essay Major Work: Your Memoir	Painting a picture through words. Describing events and places in a way that draws the reader in.
September: Persuasive writing Major Work: Persuasive Essay	Writing to evoke emotion through style and word choice.
October: Comic Book Writing Major work: Create a Comic Book	Character Development and Dialogue. Story formatting.
November: My First Novel Major Work: NaNoWriMo Participation to complete a 50,000-word novel in one month.	Analyzing and creating settings, plot development and foreshadowing. This unit is designed for developing writing stamina.
December: Fan Fiction Major Work: Create a story “spin-off of another story.”	Connecting your story to the original story through character and setting consistency.
January: The art of Letter Writing Major Work: Letter Anthology	Form, structure, and history of letter writing.
February: Playwriting Major Work: Create and Present a Play	Dialogue, stage direction, condensing a story.
March: Children’s Literature Major Work: Create and Present a Children’s Book.	Character development, voice, drafting and revising.
April: Poetry Major Work: PowerPoint Presentation about a poet and the analysis of one poem.	Word Choice, imagery, figurative language, rhyme scheme, meter, poetic form
May: Nonfiction Major Work: Write a research article about a memorial. Discuss both the event or person being memorialized as well as the artist who created the memorial.	Writing to inform, persuade and inspire
June: Obituary- Goodbye to the school year	Encapsulating a timeline into a limited number of words through careful crafting and word choice.

Computer Policy

You will be working on computers in the computer lab and computers from the cart during this course. You will have an assigned computer and are responsible for that computer being kept in good working condition. Please do not download or change the desk top of any school computer. Please do not have food or drink of any kind near the school computers.

Late Work:

If you are not able to complete the work on time please talk to me. If there is a legitimate reason that your work is late I can help you make a plan to complete it. If you simply forgot to do the work then the grade will drop 10% for each day it is late. This means your wonderful A+ paper will only be worth a B+ if it is a day late. Please don’t let this happen. If you need help with a project see me so we can work out a timeline that allows you to complete the work on time.

Makeup Work:

If you are absent you have double the number of days you miss to finish the work. So, if you miss school on Monday, you have Tuesday and Wednesday to make-up the work. If you are going to be gone for an extended period of time let me know so we can set up work online, so you can keep up with the course.

Grading Policy:

Your grade is based on daily writing in your composition book, quiz scores, class assignments, and major monthly projects.

100-95%	A+
94-90%	A
89-85%	B+
84-80%	B
79-75%	C+
74-70	C
69-65%	D+
64-60%	D
59% or below	F

Behavior

A simple system of behavior management will be used in the classroom. You will be prompted to comply with classroom expectations. If you do not comply, your name will be written on the board as a visual reminder that you need to address your behavior. If you do not conform with expected behavior at that point, a check mark which indicates a 15-minute detention will be added to your name. If you fail to comply after these steps have been taken you will be asked to report to Mr. Bradley to determine consequences for interrupting the learning of yourself and others.

Plagiarism:

If one expects to succeed in life, one must cultivate a mindset of expressing one's own thoughts with conviction. Besides, parroting someone else's ideas never saved the world or made anyone a million dollars. Be original. Challenge yourself. And, believe in your own abilities. -Mr. DeBarger

If you are repeating what someone else has said you must put it in quotes (italics if it is a long quote) and note who you are quoting. If you choose not to put the name of the person who originally wrote or said something you are violating the trust of that person as well as breaking the law. Plagiarism (using someone else's words and claiming them as your own) is a very serious offense. You can be kicked out of college for plagiarizing and later in your career you can lose your job if you plagiarize. Get in the habit now of rewording materials in your own words or give credit to the original author.

Contact Information:

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Office hours: Friday at lunch or by appointment during lunch or after school.