

# Wachusett Regional High School

**Course Name: Critical Reading and Writing – 2 ½ credits (N)**

**Level: Honors**

**Grade (s): 11 & 12**

## **Course Description:**

A course that brings the disciplines of reading and writing closer together. Selected readings, mostly lively and distinguished contemporary writing on varied subjects, reveal the many voices and modes of the writer. In addition to developing their analytical skill in reading, students become more capable, flexible writers by learning to recognize patterns of persuasion, strategies of rhetoric, and authorial purpose. Organizational techniques, current research practices, and revision processes are emphasized.

## **Links to Student Expectations:**

1. All students will develop skills to utilize technology to gather, to evaluate, to assimilate, and to present information.
2. All students will utilize critical thinking by using skills to identify and to provide resources to solve a problem.
3. All students will learn to communicate critically, persuasively, and personally in both oral and written expression.
4. All students will be able to make decisions and solve problems using logical processes (e.g., scientific method, induction, deduction, syllogism, etc.).
5. All students will develop skills to promote a sense of confidence in tackling the rigors of standardized tests such as the required MCAS and optional AP, SAT.

## **Interdisciplinary Connections:**

The essays students write can apply to all major disciplines (math, science, arts, humanities, etc.).

## **Essential Concepts:**

1. The skills of reading and writing go hand in hand.
2. Authors approach their work with a variety of voices and modes based on the audience and purpose of piece.
3. By learning to recognize patterns of persuasion, strategies of rhetoric and authorial purpose, students will become more capable, flexible readers and writers.

## **Student Objectives:**

1. Students read and critically assess a number of contemporary essays in a variety of genres.
2. Students will produce a number of written pieces in the genres studied.
3. Students will review grammatical structure.
4. Students will improve their own voice and style.
5. Students will build their own vocabulary.

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## Suggestions for Instruction:

1. Students work independently and in writing groups to develop a written voice.
2. Students engage in large group discussion to critically examine texts.
3. Whole class instruction on rhetoric, grammar, syntax, diction, and style.
4. Daily reading and writing to improve critical skills (readings in Strategies for Successful Writing, Compact Reader, and The Essay Connection).

## Suggestions for Assessment:

1. Brainstorming, journal writing, class participation, and writing process activities
2. Critical essays
3. Reading exams on texts discussed in class, on texts viewed for the first time, on vocabulary, grammar and research skills

## Curriculum:

- ✓ Writing Process
- ✓ Descriptive Writing
- ✓ Narrative Writing
- ✓ Analysis
- ✓ Argumentative Writing with Research

## Lesson Extensions:

Students learn to assess not only written text but also all kinds of media, particularly in the advertising industry, on which they write a critical analysis.