

Wachusett Regional High School

Course Name: Language and Composition (2 ½ credits {N})

Level: Academic Foundations (AF) and Academic Enrichment (AE)

Grade (s): 11 & 12

Course Description:

A basic-skills refresher course for juniors and seniors who are not yet confident about their writing ability. This course emphasizes the mechanics, style, and structure of effective persuasive and expository writing, the kinds of essay writing students will encounter most in college. A research paper is a major component of the course.

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 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:

All areas of study are open to the students for their essays and research projects.

Essential Concepts:

1. Effective communication depends on organized prose written with Standard English conventions.
2. The writer must give proper credit when using borrowed material.
3. Words can empower (The Power of Language).

Student Objectives:

1. Produce a well-documented Research paper of at least six pages.
2. Read and analyze good writing.
3. Produce a variety of writing from one paragraph to multi paragraphs all of which should support a thesis with specific examples and other data.
4. Use field research, i.e., interviews.
5. Use technology and hard print resources to gather information.
6. Use Standard English conventions and precise diction.
7. Spell common words correctly.
8. Use correct punctuation.
9. Prepare students for college-level writing.

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Suggestions for Instruction:

- ✓ The Practical Writer (Chapters 1-25)
- ✓ Elements of Writing (Fourth Course) for grammar lesson
- ✓ *WRHS Writing and Research Manual* for proper documentation
- ✓ WRHS "No Mistakes Spelling List"

Suggestions for Assessment:

- ✓ Grade three – ring binders with course work – portfolios
- ✓ Weekly tests in spelling and grammar
- ✓ Letter grades and opportunity to rewrite the various essays in the text
- ✓ English department Rubric for the research paper
- ✓ Final exam to include writing a five-paragraph essay on a thesis the student must develop

Curriculum:

- ✓ Extensive use of the Writing Center and Media Center.
- ✓ Begin the course with short, basic paragraphs and work up to the six-page Research paper.
- ✓ Write real life letter to the editor, letters of complaint, to congress.
- ✓ Daily writing practice, no matter how short.
- ✓ Weekly lessons in grammar.
- ✓ Personal conferences.

Lesson Extensions:

- ✓ Researching the year you were born or family origins
- ✓ Writing an effective, impressive college essay
- ✓ Vocabulary enrichment through sample SAT practices