

# Creative Writing Syllabus

Mr. Ledesma

**Contact Information:**

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**Course Description:**

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to think and write creatively. My goal as the teacher of this course is to encourage you to love writing and to guide you as you hone your craft. It is through writing that life becomes more meaningful, and I hope to inspire the same instincts in you, that writing brings to me. Writing can clarify, heal, excite, encourage, remind, inspire, and make the world a better place. This class is the beginning for you to be a poet, a free-lance writer, a story teller, an essayist, a non-fiction writer, or whatever you choose to become as a writer. There will be many options presented to you. This class is about exploring the different writing genres.



**Projected Units of Study:**

- Autobiography
- Creative nonfiction
- Short stories
- Descriptive writing
- Biographical writing
- Novel writing
- Projects
- Scriptwriting
- Poetry and music
- Student led project

**Course materials:**

- Hardback Journal or College ruled spiral bound notebook
- Pens

**Journal/Quill:**

The purpose of the journal is to give you the opportunity to write every day. It is a place for you to write and create –don't worry about spelling, grammar, or flow. Just write. Sometimes you will free-write in your journals while other days you will respond to a provided prompt. I just want you to write! Journals will be collected periodically as a means of accountability.

Sometimes we write for ourselves, while other times we write for others. Your journals will occasionally be shared in groups and with the class.

Quill is our writing program to improve our skills and grammar.

**Lists:** As you begin your writing journey, keep a list of ideas that pop into your head, interesting word combinations, story lines that are interesting that you see, or vocabulary you might want to use in your writing. These lists you can keep in the back of your journal.

**Tardies:** You must be in your seat when the bell rings to be considered on time. As we write most days, be sure that you make up any work that you missed due to an excused absence.

**Grading:** You will be graded on your journals (completing entries), written assignments, participation, peer editing, writing projects, and personal progress. The grading scale is based on a points system, and you will be given points for all assignments. Not handing in assignments takes away from your overall grade.

**Grades:**

Formal Writing Assessment (all projects, portfolio work, literary magazine)	40%
Impromptu writing/journal writing/Quill	30%
Workshop/participation (peer reading, editing, classroom reading of writings)	30%

**Absences:**

In the event of an absence, talk to a partner to get the prompt or ask me.

**Expectations:**

- Be punctual
- Be respectful of people and property
- Be prepared
- Be on task
- Be kind

**Writing Project:**

Writing projects will be assigned for each unit and occasionally “student choice” projects. The projects are above and beyond our class work and writing. Time will be allotted for students to work independently or in groups on their projects. Topics may range from a script (group work), a few chapters of a novel, or a collection of poetry.

**Phones:** As phones are not allowed in the classroom and are a distraction to the student and others, all phones must be turned off and placed in your backpack.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the course syllabus and understand what is expected of me.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_