

DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School Course Outline

Course Title: Creative Writing (One Semester)
Grade Level: 7,8
Prerequisites: Students reading at or above grade level

Course Description:

Students enrolled in Creative Writing will demonstrate proficiency in a variety of writing types. The domains may include sensory/descriptive, imaginative/narrative, practical/informative, and analytical/expository. The writing skills emphasized will be sentence and paragraph development, poetry, story writing, interviews, and essays.

Student Performance Objectives for this Course:

Students will

1. write a complete sentence and a complete paragraph.
2. develop an essay which includes an opening, body, and closure.
3. use figurative language, such as similies and metaphors.
4. manipulate sentences utilizing sentence combining, sentence expanding, and sentence imitation.
5. write poetry in a variety of forms as illustrated by the haiku, tanka, diamante, limerick, and free verse.
6. utilize prewriting techniques including clustering, brainstorming, and mapping.
7. compose practical forms of writing such as business letters, application forms, directions, and interviews.
8. use the analytical/expository domain in the writing of consumer reports, editorials, T.V. commercials, and essays.
9. utilize proper mechanics of the English language while revising, responding, and editing written work.

Creative Writing – continued

10. use evaluative techniques such as holistic scoring, peer group editing, and pupil self-check sheets.
11. write in the imaginative/narrative domain through dialogues, cartoon making, fairy tales, and point of view stories.

Instructional Strategies

1. Large and small group discussion incorporating Bloom's Taxonomy
 - a. Knowledge – recalling previously learned information
 - b. Comprehension – grasping the meaning of the material
 - c. Application – applying the learned material to new and concrete situations
 - d. Analysis – breaking down the material into its component parts
 - e. Synthesis – putting the parts together to form a new whole
 - f. Evaluation – judging the value of the material for a given purpose
2. Group and independent instruction
3. Lecture
4. Written and oral assignments
5. Group and individual projects
6. Audio-visual aids
7. Teacher and student critique
8. Use of computers as technology becomes available

Suggested Instructional Units

- Unit I. Review of the Writing Process
 - a. Prewriting
 - b. Drafting
 - c. Revising
 - d. Editing and proofreading
 - e. Publishing

- Unit II. Work and Sentence Exploration
 - a. Creative word lists
 - 1. People words, wet words, taste words, sight words, etc.
 - b. Sentence exercises
 - 1. Sentence combining
 - 2. Sentence expanding
 - 3. Sentence imitation

- Unit III. Sensory/Descriptive Domain
 - a. Descriptive writing
 - examples: describe a person, a special place, popcorn
 - b. Poetry
 - c. Journal writing
 - d. Figurative language
 - e. Illiteration books with illustrations

- Unit IV. Imaginative/Narrative Domain
 - a. Dialogues
 - b. Cartoon captions
 - c. Story writing

- Unit V. Practical/Informative Domain
 - a. Direction writing
 - b. Interviews
 - c. Applications
 - d. Friendly and business letters

- Unit VI. Analytical/Expository Domain
 - a. Advertisements and commercials
 - b. Editorials

Evaluation

Student progress will be measured by:

- Completion and quality of assignments
- Attendance
- Class participation
- Tests/Quizzes
- Homework
- Teacher observation
- Teacher evaluation
- Student performance
- Portfolio assessment
- Authentic assessment
- Rubrics

Materials and Resources

No textbook has been adopted for this course.