Welcome to The Art of Writing! My goal for this course is simple: I want to turn you into powerful writers who, armed only with a pen, can tackle any writing assignment that comes your way for the next 75+ years. In this class we will look at the practices, techniques, and approaches employed by great authors and dig into what divides successful and unsuccessful writing. We will learn grammar, rhetoric, and strategies to approach a wide range of writing tasks.

**Materials to Bring Every Day**

- A Google Drive account (school or personal)
- A spiral notebook that will be used solely for Art of Writing work and something to write with
- A folder or notebook that will be used to keep Art of Writing papers
- A highlighter
- Some type of planner

**Grading**

This course is graded on a straight-point system. This means that each quarter the grade is determined by dividing the number of points earned by the number of possible points. The approximate breakdown of the grade will be the following: 70% papers and 30% workshop/homework/quizzes. Each quarter is worth 40% of the final is worth 20%.

**Classroom Structure**

This class is run in a workshop fashion. That means there will be a lot of class time devoted to writing, revising, reflecting and responding to the writing of others. This writing, revising, reflecting, and conferencing time is absolutely essential and thus has at least ten points attached to it each week.

**Class Policies**

- All papers must be handed in on time for full credit. For major assignments, 5% will be deducted for each block late. Late smaller assignments will be accepted for a 30% deduction within a week of the due date and a 50% deduction within two weeks of the due date. An exception to this is any deadline connected to workshopping. Generally, these deadlines must be on time to receive any credit. Additionally, assignments not turned in at the start of class may be late too.
➢ Please be here and on time! Class will start promptly each day and assignments missed due to unexcused tardies/absences cannot be made up.

➢ Phones can be a wonderful educational tool or a crippling distraction. With this in mind, feel free to bring phones and use them when it is clearly stated that you can use them, but otherwise keep them off and out of sight. When it comes to misuse of phones, the first time I will have you put it away; the second time will be a discussion with me, and the third time we will come up with a plan for home.

➢ Plagiarism in any form will result in a loss of at least 50% of the points with no opportunities for making up the points and a call/email home. Repeat offenders will face additional disciplinary measures, as specified in the Student Rights & Responsibilities Guide. Plagiarism is the use of any words, phrases, sentences, etc. from another person or place that are used without acknowledging the source. Further, if you assist in academic dishonesty (including giving, selling or loaning your work to someone or putting work into a shared file or dropbox), regardless of your intent, you may be subject to the same consequences. If you every have any questions about if something is plagiarism, make sure to ask me!

➢ It is up to absent students to check the board, webpage, folders in the class, and with me for work missed while they were gone. Students are expected to make up everything missed when gone within one class period of return (unless otherwise determined through a meeting with me).

➢ Rewrites are always accepted and encouraged for all papers turned in on time.Rewritten papers must have the original graded copy attached to the rewrite.

➢ No peanuts, nuts, or sesame can be in class at any time. Please respect this!

➢ Extra Credit: Students are encouraged to find their own extra credit by finding events, contests, prompts, etc. that relate to the topics of the course. All extra credit must be run by me to determine the point value and if it meets the criteria. Extra credit cannot exceed a maximum of 3% per quarter. Occasionally extra credit assignments will be offered.

Thank you so much for taking my class, and I look forward to a semester of artful writing!

Sincerely,

Matthew Johnson