

One-on-One Peak Analytical Writing Course Syllabus

Course description: Working one-on-one with an expert writing teacher is the ideal environment for mastering writing. In this rigorous and engaging course, students will learn to structure their essays, deepen their analysis, develop their arguments, and create quality supportive examples. It's this level of preparation and skill development that become invaluable to students when they advance to honors, AP, and higher-level English and history classes.

Session 1 – Introduction to Active Reading & Writing Effective Paragraphs

- Determining what's important in a passage
- Prediction & reflection while reading
- What makes a good paragraph?

Session 2 – Active Reading

- Comprehension monitoring and using context
- Annotation techniques

Session 3 – Paraphrasing & Plot

- Restating texts in your own words
- Exposition, rising action, climax, resolution

Session 4 – Character & Conflict

- Creating a personal bio for characters
- Identifying direct & indirect characterization
- Complexity & contradictions in characters
- How characters are shaped over time (arcs)

Session 5 – Setting & Tone

- How tone and perspective relate to setting
- Characters are a product of their environments
- Making inferences about setting
- Considering historical contexts

Session 6 – Main Idea & Theme

- Identify the thesis in stories with strong messages
- How the messages in stories are developed and supported
- Common themes and how they are developed

Session 7 – Inferences & Figurative Language

Continue discussion of inferences
Compare metaphors and similes
Examples of figurative language and effectiveness

Session 8 – Style, Purpose, & Craft

Compare authors' styles and impacts on stories
How style can be shaped by purpose
Influence of the author on texts

Session 9 – Paragraph Structure & 4-5 Paragraph Essay

Effective models for paragraphs – CLEAR, MEAT, PEEL, TAPES, TACOS
How each paragraph functions in a literary essay

Session 10 – Evidence & Citation

Using quotes to support arguments
The STEAL system
How to introduce a citation
How to explain and integrate a citation

Session 11 – Outlining

Brainstorming initial thoughts on theme and literary elements
Sentence-by-sentence design for essay
Different models

Session 12 – Revising – Argument & Analysis

Focused, Original, Opinionated, Detailed

Session 13 – Revising – Improving Language

Words and expressions to avoid
Words and expressions that can be improved

Session 14 – Integration

Apply all previous lessons for final project of writing the "perfect" literary essay

Session 15 – Revision

Look at examples of student essays, consider techniques to borrow
Review draft of essay

Session 16 – Program Review & Preview of Advanced Lessons (Rhetoric & AP)

Consider the topics in college English courses – rhetorical analysis, author intent, subjectivity, and context
AP essay prompts