



ADVANCED COMPOSITION GRADES 11 AND 12

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Advanced Composition is a one-semester course designed for college bound juniors and seniors who wish to refine their expository writing skills. The students practice the skills necessary for writing effectively and knowledgeably in different subject areas by focusing on informative essays, persuasive essays, and literary analyses, as well as brief reports. Students encounter and apply a variety of writing techniques typically required at the college level. All pieces of a student's writing are stored in a Works in Progress folder from which each student selects pieces of writing for his or her writing portfolio. The contents of the portfolio illustrate how each student has grown and improved as a writer throughout the year.

PREREQUISITE

Enrollment should be based on student performance, teacher recommendation, and parent input.

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK(S)

Language Awareness: Readings for College Writers, Ninth Edition, Paul Eschholz, Alfred Rosa, Virginia Clark

THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ATTITUDES THAT COMPRISE THE ADVANCED COMPOSITION COURSE ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS FROM THE CURRICULUM:

SKILLS AND CONCEPTS

- Clarity of intention and purpose
- Command of the subject
- Knowledge of audience
- Strategies for getting started
- Most effective method of organization for the task and audience
- Diction appropriate to audience and purpose
- Command of the written language
- Locating appropriate and useful sources for reports
- Formulating a clear and workable thesis
- Paraphrasing and summarizing material, recognizing the difference between the two
- Citing relevant direct quotations, using proper punctuation
- Applying organizational skills to syntax and transitions - for unity, coherence, and conciseness
- Using different types of development based on the nature of the material and the audience, including detail, example, definition, cause and effect
- Making points of comparison and points of contrast to support the thesis
- Drawing worthwhile conclusions
- Analyzing, critiquing, and revising during all phases of the writing process
- Editing for errors and checking proper research format, using the handbook as needed

THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE COURSE FOLLOW:

1. The student will use the writing process: prewriting, writing, and revising.
2. The student will identify situations which require expository activity.
3. The student will explore the skills needed to accomplish a variety of writing tasks.
4. The student will learn/use different types of development based on the nature of the material and the audience.
5. The student will create effective theses.
6. The student will provide adequate, effective support of the thesis.
7. The student will demonstrate command of the standards of written language.
8. The student will write an effective argumentative paper.
9. The student will write an effective literary analysis.
10. The student will write an effective investigative paper.
11. The student will learn to identify and meet criteria of essay questions in a variety of subjects.



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A H E A D O F T H E C U R V E

MISSION STATEMENT

The Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, will empower every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen within the global community.

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write The Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Director of Secondary Instructional Services, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038, Telephone (757) 263-1070 or (757) 263-1429, fax (757) 263-1412.