

ENGLISH WRITING CLASS

Rob Whyte

Writing is one of the most useful communication skills. The purpose of this course is to help students with improve their ability to write short, clear and easy to understand sentences and paragraphs.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this class, students will be able to:

1. Recognize and use a variety of word types (e.g. nouns and adjectives);
2. Identify different types of sentences (e.g. main idea and supporting sentence);
3. Use proper punctuation, grammar and paragraph formatting;
4. Edit basic writing errors;
5. Write a letter, short essay or email with proper structure and spelling.

Most of your writing will be done in class. I will introduce a topic or writing question and you will spend time writing the answers. Sometimes, I will review your work and ask you to do a rewrite. Sometimes, you will check other students' work.

The writing lessons will be divided into three parts. First, we will use the textbook to learn and practice basic sentence patterns and improve vocabulary/spelling skills. Second, we will practice short writing projects that will increase your vocabulary and understanding of sentence structures. Second, we will learn to write proper paragraphs.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Every class, you will need to bring four things: a pen/pencil, notebook, a dictionary and the textbook. The book is Ventures Book 1 by Bitterlin, Johnson, Price, Ramirez and Savage. This book is in the school bookstore.

There will be two quizzes and two exams. Each quiz will be a short test of the material you learned in class. The exams will cover a wider range of material and test your ability to apply the ideas we learned. All tests and exams will be held in the classroom. Homework will also be assigned each week. I will post homework on my website. You will be required to download and print worksheets and other material from this site in order to prepare for class. The website is eslwriting.org.

Attendance: 10%, Participation: 10%, Mid term: 30%, Final exam: 30%, Quizzes: 20% (two x 10%)

I will strictly follow the school's policy on attendance. If you are often absent or late, your final grade will reflect your time management skills. Also, please note: two lates will equal one absence.

Two points regarding grades. The final grade will follow the university 's grading policy. Your grade will depend upon your effort and commitment. At the end of the semester, please do not ask me to change your grade because you have a special situation. You need a scholarship? You want to get a job? You want to go to graduate school? These are all important things. But, if you need a high score, work hard, study and come to every class on time and ready to learn. Unless I made a calculation error, I will not change your final score.

If you have any questions about the class work, feel free to email at robbusan@yahoo.com.
Office hours Tues 12pm-2pm, Wed 10am 12pm. International Building, room 203 (opposite GLE).