

ADVANCED COMPOSITION

TEXT

The Old Man and the Sea
A Clean, Well-Lighted Place
In Another Country

PREREQUISITES

Senior standing with a mastery of basic writing skills and the recommendation of the student's English teacher and the instructor of the class.

OBJECTIVES

To develop the skills needed to succeed at writing papers for college level courses.

CONTENT

One author is studied in this class. Since multiple papers are required, a student gets to experience a close examination of one writer and several types of writing in great depth. For example, the first paper is a character analysis of Santiago from Old Man and the Sea. The second paper is a persuasive essay on A Clean Well-Lighted Place. The third paper is an explication of the first paragraph of In Another Country. The fourth paper is a comparison/contrast paper discussing all three works (theme, characters, etc.) The fifth paper centers around a specific topic, unrelated to Hemingway writings, in which research skills are emphasized.

SKILLS

- Organizing and outlining material for a rough draft
- Editing and revising
- Summarization
- Literature analysis
- Critical thinking
- Concepts of sequence of events, main idea, inference, and universal theme
- Five paragraph research paper format
- Library research skills
- Advanced dictionary/thesaurus skills

METHODS

Lecture, small group discussion, peer-writing groups. In order for the teacher to give highly individualized feedback, papers are returned with a personal tape cassette. Rewritten papers are turned in with the initial paper and tape cassette. Additional feedback is provided if needed.

HOMEWORK

Homework is essential and at times, very heavy. Students are expected to complete five papers each of approximately five-six pages in length. Students are often required to rewrite a paper.

GRADING/CREDITS

The grading technique is fairly unique. Each student brings an audiocassette that is submitted with his/her paper. The teacher reads the paper aloud on the tape, instructing the student to read along with the tape at home. The teacher reads the paper, stopping at points to discuss style, grammar, logical reasoning, punctuation, correct essay form, etc. The teacher does not actually write anything on the paper. Students are responsible for taking notes on their own paper, rewriting it, and then submitting the revised paper back in with the original. In this way the teacher effectively has an individual conference with each student.

INDIVIDUALIZATION

Since the class is designed for the student that is college bound, there is little individualization of assignments. The class is intended to mimic a first year college writing class; therefore, all students, with the exception of the final paper, are given the same assignments with the same deadlines.

ABSENCES/TARDIES

Lecture is crucial to success in the class. Absences will usually result in lower grades on assigned papers.