

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
Preparation for Expository Writing

Course Blackboard site: wtma.blackboard.com

Required Text(s):

1. *Sentence Composing for Elementary School* by Don Killgallon, ISBN 0325002231
2. *Paragraphs for Elementary School* by Don Killgallon, ISBN 9780325047942
3. *Sentence Composing for Middle School* by Don Killgallon, ISBN 9780867094190
4. *Paragraphs for Middle School* by Don Killgallon, ISBN 9780325042688
5. Selections from *Writing with Ease, Levels 3 & 4* by Susan Wise Bauer (will be provided by the instructor)

All other texts and reading will be provided for the students in PDF form on Blackboard

Course Description:

This course will focus on basic reading and writing skills to help students prepare for writing expository essays. Students will formulate and write down paragraphs based on assigned readings. Students will work to develop sentence and paragraph skills by imitation, leading to original composition.

Assignments, Quizzes & Tests:

Weekly Written Assignments: There will be weekly written assignments, designed to assist students in practicing topics learned in the previous week.

Discussion Board Posts: Students will use the Blackboard discussion board to share selected brief assignments (usually based on a prompt). These posts are graded ONLY for completion, but will receive commentary.

Midterm and Final Exam: Students will complete two larger assignments throughout the year: one in between semesters and the other at the very end of the course. These assignments will require students to utilize skills learned throughout the semester and year. Assignment details will be provided by the instructor on the course Blackboard site.

Grammar Quizzes: These in-class quizzes will focus on one or two grammar lessons learned in the weeks following up to the quiz. These quizzes are not comprehensive, but will serve as a quick drill on grammar concepts.

Grading Breakdown:

Weekly Writing Assignments: 40%

Discussion Board Posts: 10%

Midterm Exam: 10%

Final Exam: 15%

Grammar Quizzes: 15%

Participation: 10%

Example Schedule

The schedule is subject to frequent updates. Please see Blackboard/email for changes.

Week #	Learning Topic
Week 1	Writing Plot Summaries & Writing Sentences
Week 2	Writing Plot Summaries & Writing Sentences
Week 3	Writing Summaries of Historical Non-Fiction & Sentence Unscrambling
Week 4	Writing Summaries of Complex Non-Fiction, Comma Splices, & Sentence Structure
Week 5	Identifying and Summarizing a Central Narrative & Sentence Structure
Week 6	Summarizing a Series of Facts & Imitating Sentences
Week 7	Writing Summaries of a long Historical Narrative & Sentence Variety
Week 8	Understanding Poetry Meter and Rhyme & Sentence Structure and Sentence Variety
Week 9	Identifying Details, Writing Summaries of Details, & Imitating Paragraphs
Week 10	Imitating Introductory Paragraphs
Week 11	Identifying and Writing about Central Themes and Details; Combining Sentences
<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	
Week 12	Identifying and Writing about Central Narrative Thread & Combining Sentences
Week 13	Identifying and Writing about Central Themes and Details & Combining Sentences
Week 14	Identifying and Writing about a Central Narrative & Expanding Sentences
<i>Winter Break</i>	
Week 15	Identifying and Writing about a Central Narrative and Details & Expanding Sentences
Week 16	Identifying and Writing about Central Details & Expanding Sentences
<i>Midterm Exam Due</i>	
Week 17	Identifying and Writing about a Central Narrative & Expanding Paragraphs
Week 18	Identifying and Writing about a Central Narrative and Details & Expanding and Imitating Sentences

Week 19	Introduction to Building Stronger Paragraphs
Week 20	Summarizing Cause and Effect & Identifying Sentence Parts
Week 21	Identifying and Writing about a Central Narrative and Central Details & Building Stronger Paragraphs
Week 22	Sentence Openers
Week 23	Identifying and Writing about Central Emotion & Paragraph Openers
Week 24	Subject-Verb Splits in Sentences
	<i>Spring Break</i>
Week 25	Identifying and Writing about Details in Chronological Order & Paragraph Closers
Week 26	Writing with Changes in Chronology & Paragraph Closers
Week 27	Mixing Sentence Tools and Techniques
Week 28	Writing about a Passage with Multiple Main Topics & Paragraph and Sentence arrangement
Week 29	Identifying and Writing about Central Themes and Details, Comma Splices, and Run-on Sentences
Week 30	Identifying and Writing about Central Details in Difficult Historical Passages
Week 31	Review & Work on Final Projects
Week 32	Work on Final Projects

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
Expository Writing 1

Course Blackboard site: wtma.blackboard.com

Required Texts

All other texts and reading will be provided for the students in PDF form on Blackboard

Bauer, Susan Wise. *Writing With Skill, Student Workbook Level 1*. Charles City: Peace Hill Press, 2012.

The most recent version of *Roget's International Thesaurus*.
(Do not purchase if student already owns a thesaurus)

Course Description

Building pre-rhetoric skills in organization, sentence structure, and research skills. Covers narrative summaries, chronological narratives, descriptions, biographical sketches, and sequences, plus beginning literary essays about both fiction and poetry; one- and two-level outlining; thesaurus use, note-taking, and documentation.

Written Assignments

Weekly Writing Assignments: There will be weekly writing assignments. Writing assignments will always be due by the start of class on Monday.

Rewrites: For certain weekly writing assignments, students will be asked to do a rewrite using my comments to edit their assignments. These rewrites will be completion grades, meaning that students receive full credit as long as the work is complete (meaning that all corrections are attempted).

Developed Papers: Two developed papers per semester (one-page minimum for fall semester, two-page minimum for spring semester) in which grammar and mechanics, sentence structure, organization, and content are evaluated.

Quizzes and Tests

Grammar Quizzes: Quizzes will focus on one or two grammar lessons learned in the previous week. These quizzes are not comprehensive, and will serve as a quick drill on grammar concepts.

Terminology Tests: There will be two tests in the second half of the course that will focus on literary terminology. The student will be expected to define terms and apply them when handling literary works (both poetry and fiction).

Final Grading Breakdown

Weekly Writing Assignments: 40%

Rewrites & Participation: 10%

Developed Papers: 25%

Grammar Quizzes: 15%

Terminology Tests: 10%

Example Schedule

The schedule is subject to frequent updates. Please see Blackboard/email for changes.

Week #	Learning Topic
Week 1	Narrative Summaries
Week 2	Narrative Summaries & Outlines
Week 3	Outlines & Thesaurus Basics
Week 4	Chronological Narratives of a Past Event
Week 5	Chronological Narratives of a Scientific Discovery
Week 6	Review Chronological Narratives & Commas
Week 7	Description of Place & Direct Quotations
Week 8	Description of Place
Week 9	Combining Descriptions & Chronological Narratives of a Past Event & Active vs. Passive Sentences
Week 10	Scientific Description & Active vs. Passive Sentences
Week 11	Combining Scientific Description & Chronological Narratives of a Scientific Discovery
<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	
Week 12	Description of a Person & Capitalization
Week 13	Description of a Person & Formatting Titles
Week 14	Description of a Person
<i>Winter Break</i>	
Week 15	Biographical Sketches
Week 16	Biographical Sketches & Review
<i>Mid-term</i>	
Week 17	Review Biographical Sketches & Which vs. That
Week 18	Sequences & Moving Indirect Objects
Week 19	Sequences
Week 20	Protagonists/Antagonists
Week 21	Protagonists/Antagonists & Supporting Characters
Week 22	Idea Stories
Week 23	Two-Level Outlines
Week 24	Citations
<i>Spring Break</i>	
Week 25	Taking Notes & Changing Infinitives to Participles
Week 26	Writing from Your Notes

Week 27	Writing from Your Notes
Week 28	Poetry: Sound & Meter
Week 29	Poetry: Narrative
Week 30	Poetry Review
Week 31	Begin Research Project
Week 32	Work on Research Projects
<i>Final</i>	

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
Expository Writing 2

Course Blackboard site: wtma.blackboard.com

Required Text(s)

All other texts and reading will be provided for the students in PDF form on Blackboard

Bauer, Susan Wise. *Writing With Skill, Student Workbook Level 2*. Charles City: Peace Hill Press, 2013. ISBN 9781933339610

Course Description

In this course we will review the skills students learned and developed in Expository Writing I. We then will build upon this foundation by exploring explanation by comparison; explanation by definition; introductions and conclusions; brainstorming and choosing topics; writing comparative literary essays; and methods for planning longer papers.

Written Assignments

Weekly Writing Assignments: There will be weekly writing assignments that will apply the concept learned in the previous week.

Short Essays: Over the course of the year, there will be two “short essays.” They will be 2-4 pages in length, and will combine and review concepts learned in class in the previous weeks.

Midterm Paper: There will be one midterm paper where the student will utilize skills learned throughout the first semester to write an essay on a provided topic.

Final Research Paper: Students will utilize skills learned throughout the year to complete a final composition based on their own research of a chosen topic.

Grading Breakdown

Weekly Writing Assignments: 40%

Short Essays: 20%

Midterm Paper: 15%

Final Research Paper: 20%

Participation: 5%

Example Schedule

The schedule is subject to frequent updates. Please see Blackboard/email for changes.

Week #	Learning Topic
Week 1	Summaries & Outlines
Week 2	Narrations and Sequences in History
Week 3	Note-Taking and Citations
Week 4	Narrations and Sequences in History
Week 5	Explanation by Comparison, Part I: Science

Week 6	Introductions & Conclusions
Week 7	Explanation by Comparison, Part II: History
Week 8	Finding a Topic
Week 9	Polishing an Essay
Week 10	The Embedded Essay
Week 11	Comparing Stories
<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	
Week 12	Explanation by Definition: Properties
Week 13	Explanation by Definition: Function
Week 14	Explanation by Definition: Genus
<i>Winter Break</i>	
Week 15	Explanation by Definition Review
Week 16	Explanation by Definition Review
<i>Midterm Exam Week</i>	
Week 17	Combining Literary Analysis & Biographical Sketches
Week 18	Combining Literary Analysis & Biographical Sketches
Week 19	Explanation by Definition in History: Properties & Function
Week 20	Explanation by Definition in History: Genus
Week 21	Explanation by Definition Project in History
Week 22	Outlining and Rewriting
Week 23	Independent Composition Modeled on a Classic Essay
Week 24	Explanation by Temporal Comparison in History
<i>Spring Break</i>	
Week 25	Temporal Comparisons in History and Science
Week 26	Temporal Comparisons in Science
Week 27	Preparing to Write About a Longer Work of Fiction
Week 28	Writing About a Longer Work of Fiction
Week 29	Combining the Topoi in History
Week 30	Combining the Topoi in History and Science
Week 31	Combining the Topoi in Science
Week 32	Work on Final Paper
<i>Final</i>	

Well-Trained Mind Academy
Expository Writing III

Course Site: <https://wtma.blackboard.com>

Course Description

The primary goal of this course is to give students the confidence and tools necessary for independent thinking, reading, and writing. We first will review the skills students learned and developed in Expository Writing I and II. Then, we will build upon this foundation by exploring narration by significance; narration by cause and effect; instructional and experimental sequences; and analysis of poetry, prose, and film. Completion of Expository Writing III will prepare students to begin our high school Rhetoric sequence.

Course Goals

As a result of completing this course, students will:

- solidify skills learned in Expository Writing I and II
- develop confidence as independent readers, thinkers, and writers
- develop more advanced skills in research, organization, and essay construction

Required Texts

Bauer, Susan Wise. *Writing With Skill: Student Workbook Level 3*. Charles City, VA: Peace Hill Press, 2014. ISBN 9781933339740

A notebook (any kind is permissible).

Written Assignments

Weekly Writing Assignments: There will be weekly writing assignments that will apply the concept learned in the previous week.

Short Essays: Over the course of the year, there will be two “short essays.” They will be 2-4 pages in length, and will combine and review concepts learned in class in the previous weeks.

Midterm Paper: There will be one midterm paper where the student will utilize skills learned throughout the first semester to write an essay on a provided topic.

Final Research Paper: Students will utilize skills learned throughout the year to complete a final composition based on their own research of a chosen topic.

Assignments

Weekly Writing Assignments: 40%

Short Essays: 20%

Midterm Paper: 15%

Final Research Paper: 20%

Participation: 5%

Example Schedule

Week:	Topic:
1	Review: Summaries, Outlines, and Topic Sentences
2	Review: Documentation, Plagiarism, Introductions and Conclusions
3	Independent Composition
4	Narration by Significance
5	Narration by Significance
6	Narration by Significance
7	Literary Analysis: Fiction
8	Literary Analysis: Fiction
9	Instructional Sequence
10	Experimental Sequence
11	Explanation by Cause and Effect in History
--	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>
12	Explanation by Cause and Effect in History
13	Explanation by Cause and Effect in History
14	Explanation by Cause and Effect in History
--	<i>Winter Break</i>
--	<i>Winter Break</i>
15	Literary Analysis: Poetry
16	Literary Analysis: Poetry
--	<i>Midterms Week</i>
17	Explanation by Cause and Effect in Science
18	Explanation by Cause and Effect in Science
19	Explanation by Cause and Effect in Science
20	Explanation by Cause and Effect in Science
21	Cultural Analysis: Movie Review
22	Cultural Analysis: Movie Review
23	Place Description and Chronological Narrative
24	Analysis and Review
--	<i>Spring Break</i>
25	Independent Short Projects
26	Independent Short Projects
27	Literary Analysis: Comparing Fiction and Poetry
28	Literary Analysis: Comparing Fiction and Poetry
29	Outlining and Rewriting a Classic Essay
30:	Independent Composition Modeled on a Classic Essay
31:	Final Project
32:	Final Project
--	<i>Finals Week</i>