



Department of Teaching & Learning
Parent/Student Course Information

Advanced Composition Grades 11 and 12
LA1117 (semester) and LA1165 (year-long)

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 or a year-long 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, creative writing, including fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, and professional writing for career and college readiness. Students encounter and apply a variety of writing techniques typically required at the college level. Students will incorporate a writer's notebook to maintain prewriting, practice writing, revision practice, and drafts. All final pieces of a student's writing are stored in a digital Google folder from which each student selects pieces of writing for his or her final 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

Instructors will provide all necessary materials for students.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

The teacher may choose supplementary materials to extend and enrich the student's knowledge of course standards. These materials may be drawn from supplementary novels, visual media, primary source documents, simulations, computer programs, and other online educational resources.

SKILLS AND CONCEPTS

The knowledge, skills, and attitudes that comprise the advanced composition course are summarized as follows from the curriculum:

- 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
- 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.

The objectives for the course are follows:

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 thesis.
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 expository essay with research.
9. The student will write an in a variety of creative forms, including fiction, narrative nonfiction, and poetry.
10. The student will write an in a professional manner, including resume, memo, email, cover letters, and a business proposal.
11. The student will learn to identify and meet criteria of essay questions in a variety of subjects.

Donald E. Robertson Jr., Ph.D., Acting Superintendent
Virginia Beach City Public Schools
2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038

Produced by the Department of Teaching and Learning. For further information, please call (757) 263-1070.

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*Title IX Notice: Complaints or concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex or sexual harassment should be addressed to the Title IX Coordinator at the VBCPS Office of Student Leadership, 641 Carriage Hill Road, Suite 200, Virginia Beach, 23452, (757) 263-2020, Robin.Resse@vbschools.com (student complaints) or the VBCPS Department of School Leadership, 2512 George Mason Drive, Municipal Center, Building 6, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456, (757) 263-1088, Robert.Wnukowski@vbschools.com (employee complaints). Additional information regarding Virginia Beach City Public Schools' policies regarding discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual harassment, as well as the procedures for filing a formal complaint and related grievance processes, can be found in School Board Policy 5-44 and School Board Regulations 5-44.1 (students), School Board Policy 4-4 and School Board Regulation 4-4.3 (employees) and on the School Division's website at **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/Title IX**. Concerns about the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should be addressed to the Section 504 Coordinator/Executive Director of Student Support Services at (757) 263-1980, 2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456 or the Section 504 Coordinator at the student's school. For students who are eligible or suspected of being eligible for special education or related services under IDEA, please contact the Office of Programs for Exceptional Children at (757) 263-2400, Plaza Annex/Family and Community Engagement Center, 641 Carriage Hill Road, Suite 200, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.*

The School Division is committed to providing educational environments that are free of discrimination, harassment, and bullying. Students, staff, parents/legal guardians who have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or bullying should contact the school administration at their school. Promptly reporting concerns will allow the school to take appropriate actions to investigate and resolve issues. School Board Policy 5-7 addresses non-discrimination and anti-harassment, Policy 5-44 addresses sexual harassment and discrimination based on sex or gender. Policy 5-36 and its supporting regulations address other forms of harassment.

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