

# Beginning Composition

## Vista del Lago High School

### 2021-2022

Learn to think about writing in a whole new way!

Your brain is designed to learn. It is happy when it is learning something new. So that's the goal of this class: to challenge your brain. And in the ever-changing world of technology, there is always something new to learn. We will write for a number of purposes, but it really comes down to looking around at the world, and experiencing it through a reader and writer's eyes. We hope this class is challenging, but we also hope you find it worthwhile. It is an English class, but it should help you in all of the classes you take at Vista. That's why we include it in your very first term.

# Course Expectations (Official Course Description)

The Beginning Composition course is a 9th grade required course designed to help students become skilled writers by engaging them in thoughtful writing that will extend across the content areas. Because the course is designed to integrate thinking, reading, and writing, students will become aware of writing as a process and deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to convey specific ideas. Students will learn skills necessary to write on demand with an awareness of structure, tone and word choice. Students will learn to choose strategies for specific writing prompts and become aware of the importance of audience.

The course will include intensive study of essay structure and format, how to support a thesis statement, and how to integrate evidence into thoughtful commentary for various writing prompts.

# Class Schedule

## “A” LUNCH Includes:

- ✦ H101 – H106, H203 – H206, K101-K102
- ✦ All G-Bldg Classrooms
- ✦ Library/Admin TA's

Lunch Periods  
determined by  
Block 3 classes

## “B” LUNCH Includes:

- ✦ H107 – H111, H201, H202, H207 – H211
- ✦ All E-Bldg Classrooms
- ✦ All Physical Education

Mon/Tue/Thur/Fri Regular “A” Lunch				Mon/Tue/Thur/Fri Regular “B” Lunch			
Warning Bell	8:23			Warning Bell	8:23		
<b>Block 1</b>	<b>8:30 - 9:51</b>	<b>(81 minutes)</b>		<b>Block 1</b>	<b>8:30 - 9:51</b>	<b>(81 minutes)</b>	
(Nutrition/Passing)	9:51 - 10:03			(Nutrition/Passing)	9:51 - 10:03		
<b>Block 2</b>	<b>10:03 - 11:24</b>	<b>(81 minutes)</b>		<b>Block 2</b>	<b>10:03 - 11:24</b>	<b>(81 minutes)</b>	
(Passing)	11:24 - 11:31			(Passing)	11:24 - 11:31		
<b>Advisory/FlexTime</b>	<b>11:31 - 12:07</b>	<b>(36 minutes)</b>		<b>Advisory/FlexTime</b>	<b>11:31 - 12:07</b>	<b>(36 minutes)</b>	
<b>“A” Lunch</b>	<b>12:07 - 12:42</b>			(Passing)	12:07 - 12:14		
(Passing)	12:42 - 12:49			<b>Block 3</b>	<b>12:14 - 1:35</b>	<b>(81 minutes)</b>	
<b>Block 3</b>	<b>12:49 - 2:10</b>	<b>(81 minutes)</b>		<b>“B” Lunch</b>	<b>1:35 - 2:10</b>		
(Passing)	2:10 - 2:17			(Passing)	2:10 - 2:17		
<b>Block 4</b>	<b>2:17 - 3:38</b>	<b>(81 minutes)</b>		<b>Block 4</b>	<b>2:17 - 3:38</b>	<b>(81 minutes)</b>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">No Advisory Class</div>				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">No Advisory Class</div>			
Wednesday Early Release “A” Lunch				Wednesday Early Release “B” Lunch			
Warning Bell	8:23			Warning Bell	8:23		
<b>Block 1</b>	<b>8:30 - 9:38</b>	<b>(68 minutes)</b>		<b>Block 1</b>	<b>8:30 - 9:38</b>	<b>(68 minutes)</b>	
(Passing)	9:38 - 9:45			(Passing)	9:38 - 9:45		
<b>Block 2</b>	<b>9:45 - 10:53</b>	<b>(68 minutes)</b>		<b>Block 2</b>	<b>9:45 - 10:53</b>	<b>(68 minutes)</b>	
<b>“A” Lunch</b>	<b>10:53 - 11:28</b>			(Passing)	10:53 - 11:00		
(Passing)	11:28 - 11:35			<b>Block 3</b>	<b>11:00 - 12:08</b>	<b>(68 minutes)</b>	
<b>Block 3</b>	<b>11:35 - 12:43</b>	<b>(68 minutes)</b>		<b>“B” Lunch</b>	<b>12:08 - 12:43</b>		
(Passing)	12:43 - 12:50			(Passing)	12:43 - 12:50		
<b>Block 4</b>	<b>12:50 - 1:58</b>	<b>(68 minutes)</b>		<b>Block 4</b>	<b>12:50 - 1:58</b>	<b>(68 minutes)</b>	

# Attendance

- ❖ Attendance at Vista is very important. With the block schedule, missing a single day of school is almost like missing two days.
- ❖ If you are sick, **STAY HOME**. With COVID, it is important that we adhere to these guidelines. When you are sick, you must get in touch with a classmate, and check in with Google Classroom with what we did that day. **STAY CAUGHT UP WITH THE WORK**--it will help your learning and your grade if you do.

# Weekly Agenda

Agenda, assignments and announcements will be posted on Google Classroom (GC) for each day.

Check GC every day.



Google Classroom

# Units of Study

Unit 1: What's in a name?

Unit 2: Identity and Belonging

Unit 3: This I Believe

Unit 4: Genre Study

Unit 5: Rhetoric

Unit 6: The Power of Language

# CLASSROOM/SAFETY RULES:

Students in class are expected to behave appropriately for a classroom environment that is **conducive to learning**. I expect a classroom that is **productive, focused** and **respectful**.

To facilitate a conducive learning environment:

- Wear your mask appropriately at all times.
- **Put phone away.**
- Have Chromebook **charged** and ready to go.
- Be focused and on task.
- **Have materials for class open and ready for use.**
- No recording in class unless you have permission from me that day.

# TECHNOLOGY

This Beginning Composition class has a firm commitment to the ethical and intellectual use of technology. We want your to build a positive and strong technological footprint.

When signed into FCUSD account for school, students should:

- a. Understand that when you are logged in, all actions are logged and documented at the district office; nothing you do on district login is private.
- b. Use appropriate language in electronic correspondence.
- c. Maintain security for your email and password—do not share!
- d. NEVER use a computer where another student is logged into FCUSD network.
- e. Not remove or copy data from a computer or network unless authorized to do so.
- f. NEVER upload any software onto district computers.



# TECHNOLOGY

The following activities are disruptive to learning and disciplinary action will be taken if the following infractions occur:

- Using technology to engage in any activity that violates district policy or procedures.
- Using technology or personal device to cheat or plagiarize.
- Communicating with anyone via chat, text message, email or phone call during class time, unless authorized by the teacher.
- Using technology at an inappropriate time or for researching or surfing the Internet for anything other than the assigned work.
- Recording or transmitting any audio or video of the actual class without specific teacher permission. This includes pictures.
- Duplicating or storing any material that breaks copyright law.
- Accessing, creating, distributing, or transmitting abusive, slanderous, libelous, discriminatory, or explicit material, including harassing, bullying or threatening another individual in a technological environment.

# Materials

Most of our work is done on the computer.

Recommended materials list:

1. One-subject, 8 ½ x 11, spiral bound notebook
2. Pens/pencils

If you cannot secure these,  
please let me know ASAP.



# Grades

Most students earn an “A,” “B” or “C” in Beginning composition. If you fall to a “D” or below, it will be because you are missing work. See me **immediately** if your grade falls to that level, so we can talk about make-up work and retakes.

Class/Homework (Formative) 30% of grade:  
In-Class Activities, Reading/Writing Activities,  
Quizzes

Assessment (Summative) 70% of grade:  
Essays, Tests, Presentations

Grades are on a 6-point scale.

Grade	Score in Gradebook	Overall Percentage
A	5 or 6	83.3 - 100%
B	4	66 - 83.2%
C	3	50 - 65.9%
D	2	33 - 49.9%
F	1	32.9% or below

CITIZENSHIP

If you are absent or miss a formative assignment, I will accept work late IF YOU COMMUNICATE WITH ME through email or REMIND.

There is NO PUNISHMENT for this. It is simply organizational. If you don't turn in work when it is due, for any reason, I need to remember to go back and change your score when you turn it in--the email or REMIND will prompt me to do this.

The one problem with turning in late work, is you will not receive feedback like I give when I grade all the assignments. I will score it, and that is all.

# Make-Ups/Late Work

## The purpose of formative work...

is to receive feedback. You will receive feedback and the skill score, provided that the assignment is turned in on time.

Formative assignments will be accepted and graded UNTIL the summative assessment. There is no purpose in doing formative work after a summative assessment has occurred and therefore formatives turned in after the unit summative WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

**Late summative assessments will not be taken or accepted unless PRIOR arrangements have been made with your teacher. Students may resubmit SOME summative assessments, but this must be discussed on a case-by-case basis.**

All summative assessments are submitted via turnitin.com -- no exceptions.

If you will miss a group presentation, you must let your group know, so we can plan around you. If you simply do not show up, no credit will be given.

# A personal note:

I hope you will enjoy your time with me as much as I will enjoy my time with you. I am a lifelong learner who looks forward to learning from you as you learn from me. Let us all commit to getting the best we can out of our time together by always giving our best effort. Please do not hesitate to ask me for help, that is why I am here.

Please acknowledge you have read the Course Expectations here:

<https://forms.gle/rGd5aD6JbbfPsAiJ6>

