

Curriculum Map for Writing Lab 7 2021/2022

Purpose and focus: The class will provide students the opportunity to find and develop their personal writing ability and their individual writing style and voice. The class will work at developing both fiction and non-fiction writing, centered on topics of social and emotional learning, character education and awareness of the ability of each individual to positively influence those around them.

Writing assignments will stress knowledge of and adherence to the standard conventions of written English. All assignments will be typed and shared with the class, with class readings and critiques used to help students understand their strengths and weaknesses as a writer.

Unit 1- The Power of Storytelling.

Students will write an original fictional story of not more than three typed pages. Writing will be preceded by a discussion and examination of various methods of storytelling, including use of flashbacks, first and third person narrators, and open endings. The unit will conclude with the reading of the short story *The Lady or the Tiger*.

Unit 2- Can One Person Make A Difference?

Students will research and write a short (three pages typed) biography of a person who positively influenced the lives of others. Research skills will be directly taught and reviewed prior to the students beginning their project. The unit will be introduced with a study and discussion of the life of Anne Frank, Malala and other young people who have had a positive impact through their choices. Students will then choose a living or deceased historical figure who had a positive impact through their choices and actions.

Unit 3- Paragraphing

The unit will focus on the structure of sentences and paragraphs in prose writing. Students will focus on development of ideas, organization of ideas, and use of paragraphs as a means of helping their reader logically follow their story or argument. Special attention will be paid to the need to use proper spelling and punctuation and proof reading to detect errors.

Unit 4- Conflict Resolution

Following the curriculum developed with the Center for Dispute Resolution in Ithaca, students will learn and practice conflict recognition and resolution skills. Students will learn conflict resolution skills through direct instruction, role playing activities and real life situations.

Unit 5- Sociological Research

Taught simultaneously with unit 2. Students will perform one act of kindness each day for seven days, recording in a notebook the date and time of the act, who they were kind to, what the

person's reaction to the kindness was, and what their own reaction was having been kind. At the end of the seven days class will tabulate results to statistically determine what percentage of acts were welcomed, and what percentage of acts left the student with a positive feeling of self worth.