

Why Learn to Write?

Writing can be an activity that respects and encourages the development of individuals. At college, you will have new experiences, learn job skills, and share the friendship and support of others. However, you should also focus on internal aspects, such as opening your heart and mind, committing to core values, and becoming secure in your identity. In this course, writing is presented as a bridge between the outer world and your inner self. Writing promotes coping with loss, loosening the grip of trauma, and showing others that you care.

Writing also helps you to dedicate yourself, focusing through personal core values that anyone can discover, to envision the present and future with insight and inspiration. That personal connection enables you to express yourself in your own voice, which contains a strength of conviction and self-mastery. The dual aspects of vision and voice are central to this curriculum, and in your class, you will open your eyes and free your voice, answering these questions.

- “What does my song mean to me?” A song analysis helps you to open up and share.
- “Who am I at the very core?” A belief statement communicates your values.
- “How did I become interested in my job?” A career narrative explores your voice.
- “What lessons can I take from history?” A position essay on Viktor Frankl can help.
- “What is my vision of the future?” A vision board collage shows what you stand for.
- “How can I make a difference?” A research essay literally puts your beliefs to work.

The search for true self starts with identity and creativity, develops through self-expression and dedication, and ends with some type of benevolent action. In this class, we'll follow that process together in a journey to discover your character as an author, to write ideas that make sense, and to connect with your audience. Good writing does all of these things.

The five units covered in this book correlate to the five writing assignments listed above. The advertising unit will be supported by teacher lectures, videos, and handouts. This textbook has been organized to increase student awareness of the creative experience of writing, through these topics. In each subsequent unit, you will learn about the writer actions, which are Discovering, Formulating, Creating, Developing, and Completing. These accompany the writing process. We use a general action like “discovering” instead of a term like “prewriting,” so that you can make connections to your personal values more easily, i.e. you're “discovering ideas and convictions,” not just “prewriting a paper.” It also helps you to draw from life experience.

In other words, writing with voice and vision can help you to bring your true self into your life, which leads to personal power. You're not just writing papers; you're writing yourself.