



CREATIVE WRITING

Mrs. Elizabeth Cairns

eacairns@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Course Description:

In this course, students analyze and create original works in the categories of prose, poetry, performance poetry, creative nonfiction, drama, comics, journalism, film, graphic design, and multimedia.

Course Objectives:

- *Students will practice the writing process from pre-writing to the refining and celebration of completed products.
 - *Students will study existing works and create original works in a variety of mediums and genres.
 - *Students will demonstrate an understanding of terminology and formatting requirements as they pertain to each medium and genre.
 - *Students will create content for an authentic audience for Patriot Pages.
 - *Students will compile a writing portfolio and submit their best works to contests and The Eclectic literary and arts magazine.
 - *Students will improve communication skills through class discussions, group activities, and projects.
-

Classroom Expectations:

You are expected to conduct yourself in a respectful and productive manner. In addition to all the rules and expectations listed in the student handbook, I expect you to have a positive attitude, treat others with respect, practice self-discipline, and demonstrate responsibility. If these conditions are not met, you can expect one-on-one meetings with me, parent/instructor conferencing, and administrative action, if necessary.

Concerning the use of cell phones and other electronic devices:

Devices should be on silent and kept in your purse, backpack, or pocket during class unless otherwise instructed. You may not place it on your desk. Parents, guardians, and other family members should call the front office in case of emergency.

If you violate this rule, you can expect the following consequences:

- *First offense* – The phone or device will be placed in a phone chart at the front of the room. You may pick it up at the end of class.
 - *Second offense* – The phone or device will again be placed in a phone chart at the front of the room until the end of class and a parent/guardian will be notified.
 - *Third offense* – This is defiance and I will notify an administrator.
-

Grading Policy:

Major assessments will count 70 percent of your grade. Homework and classwork will account for 30 percent of your grade. Grades will be updated weekly in PowerSchools. Each grading period will consist of nine weeks.

Cheating and plagiarism of any kind are never tolerated. The academic misconduct policy of the school will be followed in this course.



CREATIVE WRITING

Mrs. Elizabeth Cairns

eacairns@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Make-up Work Policy:

Make-up tests will **only** be given to a student who has an **excused absence**. The student **must make arrangements with the teacher to take a make-up test**.

Homework/Classwork: Students who are absent for **excused reasons** will be permitted to make up missed work. **It is the student's responsibility to get their work assignments the day upon return to school and complete the assignments according to a time frame determined by the teacher within two weeks of the date of the last absence.** Grades of zero will be assigned for assignments missed because of unexcused absences.

Late work creates a backlog for you and your teacher. Work not turned in on time will receive a grade of zero until completed. Daily assignments that are turned in after the work has been checked by the teacher may receive no higher than 50%. Late tests/grades may not receive higher than 75%. Exceptions may be made at the teacher's discretion, especially for extenuating circumstances. Please communicate with your teacher.

Texts and Other Required Reading:

The College Handbook of Creative Writing
On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King (suggested reading only)
Method and Madness: The Making of a Story (suggested reading only)
Creating Poetry (suggested reading only)
Save the Cat: Screenwriting (suggested reading only)
Dramatic Writers' Companion: Theatre (suggested reading only)
Feature and Magazine Writing (suggested reading only)
Understanding Comics (suggested reading only)

Materials and Supplies Needed:

Please bring daily:

Your Chromebook or personal device
Headphones
8.5 x 11 copy paper
Red pen, highlighter

Access to a computer and an internet connection at home is necessary from time to time. If you do not have these materials, please communicate with me.

Assignments:

Completion of daily, weekly, and semester-long assignments, including a final portfolio



CREATIVE WRITING

Mrs. Elizabeth Cairns

eacairns@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Laptops

Concerning laptop utilization:

1. Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities.
2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers.
3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops.
4. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.

Turnitin Notice

The majority of writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via the Schoology learning platform. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of student writing by comparing it with a database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This program will help students discern when they are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively - skills essential to all academic work.

Students will have the opportunity to review their Turnitin originality report and will have the opportunity to make revisions before submitting their work for grading. Once their work is submitted, teachers have the opportunity to view the student/s originality report and grade accordingly.

Accommodations

Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.

18 – WEEK PLAN*	
Weeks 1-3	Unit 1 The Writing Process; Creative Writing Bootcamp
Weeks 4-7	Unit 2 Fiction, Comics
Weeks 8-10	Unit 3 Poetry, Multimedia
Weeks 11-15	Unit 4 Creative Nonfiction
Week 16-18	Unit 5 Stage and Screen
Week 19	Final Portfolio

***This is a tentative plan and may change at the discretion of the teacher.**



CREATIVE WRITING

Mrs. Elizabeth Cairns

eacairns@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Mrs. Cairns' Creative Writing Parent/Guardian & Student Contract

_____ We have read the syllabus for Mrs. Cairns' Creative Writing course and understand the expectations for the course and classroom policies.

_____ **Plagiarism Statement:** We understand that the downloading of material in part or whole, cutting and pasting sections from online sources or copying material from other sources (to include other students)

WITHOUT giving credit to the source by citing it properly, is considered plagiarism and will result in ZERO for the assignment and teacher communication with parents and administration. Students will be given opportunities to check their work before submitting it using Turnitin.

Please sign below to acknowledge that you have received, read, and understood the syllabus.

Student name: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent/guardian name: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____

Parent/guardian, please provide two ways for me to contact you (email address, phone numbers):

Parent/guardian Email:

Parent/Guardian Phone number:

***Please feel free to email me with any questions, concerns, or anything you would like me to know about your child at eacairns@madisoncity.k12.al.us