Writing VAMPY 2012

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Instructional Assistant: TBA

In this course, students will explore the various modes of writing. We will spend one week each on fiction/poetry, nonfiction, and argument/persuasive writing. Additionally, we will work to strengthen vocabulary and grammar skills in an effort to improve style, voice and use of figurative language. Students will couple their writing skills with visual literacy skills to create multimedia projects that target an issue of their choice. As a culminating activity, students will create a multi-genre, multi-modal paper and presentation to share with their peers. Since good readers are good writers, students will spend reading time at the library on campus and will choose one nonfiction book of interest at Barnes and Noble. Guest speakers are to be announced but will include a fiction author (most likely via SKYPE) and a local broadcast journalist. Possible activities will include a walking tour of the downtown Bowling Green area and trips to the Kentucky Museum, the Confucius Center, SKyPAC, Barnes and Noble and Mammoth Cave. We will maintain a class blog on www.wordpress.com to keep parents and other interested parties up to date on our activities. Each night students will have a one-hour study hall, supervised by my instructional assistant.

Texts
Words at Play by Willard Espy
Selections from The Bedford Reader
Where Poems Come From by George Ella Lyon
The Only Grammar Book You’ll Ever Need by Susan Thurman and Larry Shea
Spunk and Bite by Arthur Plotnick
The Write Brain Workbook by Bonnie Neubauer

Videos
“Erin McKean: Words on Words”
“James Geary: Metaphorically Speaking”
Monte Python’s “The Argument Clinic”
“Anna Deavrere Smith: Four American Characters”

Power Point Presentations
Crafting a Photographic Message
Classical Rhetoric
Argument and the Media
Introduction to Argument

Web Resources
www.visualthesaurus.com
www.TED.com
www.nmmlp.org
www.wordpress.org
www.freerice.org
www.wordnik.com
www.thisibelieve.org
www.mla.org
www.storybird.com
www.chompchomp.com