



Department of Teaching & Learning
Parent/Student Course Information

Advanced Composition Grades 11 and 12
(LA1117)

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Advanced Composition is a one-semester course designed for college bound juniors and seniors who wish to refine their expository writing skills. The students practice the skills necessary for writing effectively and knowledgeably in different subject areas by focusing on informative essays, persuasive essays, and literary analyses, as well as brief reports. Students encounter and apply a variety of writing techniques typically required at the college level. All pieces of a student's writing are stored in a "Works in Progress" folder from which each student selects pieces of writing for his or her writing portfolio. The contents of the portfolio illustrate how each student has grown and improved as a writer throughout the year.

PREREQUISITE

Enrollment should be based on student performance, teacher recommendation, and parent input.

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK

Language Awareness: Readings for College Writers, Ninth Edition, Paul Eschholz, Alfred Rosa, Virginia Clark

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

The teacher may choose supplementary materials to extend and enrich the students' knowledge of course standards. These materials may be drawn from: supplementary novels, visual media, primary source documents, simulations, computer programs and other online educational resources.

SKILLS AND CONCEPTS

The knowledge, skills and attitudes that comprise the advanced composition course are summarized as follows from the curriculum:

- Clarity of intention and purpose
- Command of the subject
- Knowledge of audience
- Strategies for getting started
- Most effective method of organization for the task and audience
- Diction appropriate to audience and purpose
- Command of the written language
- Locating appropriate and useful sources for reports
- Formulating a clear and workable thesis
- Paraphrasing and summarizing material, recognizing the difference between the two
- Citing relevant direct quotations, using proper punctuation

- Applying organizational skills to syntax and transitions - for unity, coherence, and conciseness
- Using different types of development based on the nature of the material and the audience, including detail, example, definition, cause and effect
- Making points of comparison and points of contrast to support the thesis
- Drawing worthwhile conclusions
- Analyzing, critiquing, and revising during all phases of the writing process.

The objectives for the course are follows:

1. The student will use the writing process: prewriting, writing, and revising.
2. The student will identify situations which require expository activity.
3. The student will explore the skills needed to accomplish a variety of writing tasks.
4. The student will learn/use different types of development based on the nature of the material and the audience.
5. The student will create effective thesis.
6. The student will provide adequate, effective support of the thesis.
7. The student will demonstrate command of the standards of written language.
8. The student will write an effective argumentative paper.
9. The student will write an effective literary analysis.
10. The student will write an effective investigative paper.
11. The student will learn to identify and meet criteria of essay questions in a variety of subjects.

Aaron C. Spence, Ed.D., Superintendent
Virginia Beach City Public Schools
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Produced by the Department of Teaching and Learning. For further information, please call (757) 263-1070.

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*Title IX Notice: Complaints or concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex or sexual harassment should be addressed to the Title IX Coordinator, at the VBCPS Office of Student Leadership, 641 Carriage Hill Road, Suite 200, Virginia Beach, 23452, (757) 263-2020, Mary.Dees@vbschools.com (student complaints) or the VBCPS Department of School Leadership, 2512 George Mason Drive, Municipal Center, Building 6, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456 (757) 263-1088, Elizabeth.Bryant@vbschools.com (employee complaints). Additional information regarding Virginia Beach City Public Schools' policies regarding discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual harassment, as well as the procedures for filing a formal complaint and related grievance processes, can be found in School Board Policy 5-44 and School Board Regulations 5-44.1 (students), School Board Policy 4-4 and School Board Regulation 4-4.3 (employees), and on the School Division's website at **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Title IX**. Concerns about the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should be addressed to the Section 504 Coordinator/Executive Director of Student Support Services at (757) 263-1980, 2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456 or the Section 504 Coordinator at the student's school. For students who are eligible or suspected of being eligible for special education or related services under IDEA, please contact the Office of Programs for Exceptional Children at (757) 263-2400, Plaza Annex/Family and Community Engagement Center, 641 Carriage Hill Road, Suite 200, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.*

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Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write The Department of Teaching and Learning, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone 263-1070 (voice); fax 263-1424; 263-1240 (TDD) or email her at Cameron.Vadersen@vbschools.com.

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