



1. **MY ASSUMPTION:** Everyone in class is interested in writing and in improving writing skills.

2. **GOALS:**

- * *not* to make you a professional writer, but to expose you to the intricacies of the skill and of the art.
- * to make you aware of the CREATIVE PROCESS:
 1. *writing is discovery*
 2. *writing is work and self-discipline*
 3. *writing is rewriting*
 4. *writing is READING*
- * to make you more knowledgeable of the technical parts of free-writing, poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and drama
- * to develop your talent and abilities as a writer through:
 1. *help circles*
 2. *exercises*
 3. *readings*
 4. *analysis*
 5. *projects*
 6. *writer's journals*
- * to make you aware that there is a difference between what looks like a poem, short story, or play and what actually is one
- * to make you a **SERIOUS READER** in order to improve your own writing
- * to expose you to the procedure for submitting your own writing for publication
- * to give you time to write, rewrite, and rewrite again
- * to give you time to read, read, read... and reflect
- * to create an atmosphere in which to improve and share your skills

3. **OBSERVATIONS:**

- A. Natural talent will only carry you so far.
- B. Good writing requires a degree of maturity, and an understanding of feelings and emotions.
- C. Improvement in skills and knowledge of writing depends greatly on the effort given to assignments.
- D. Writing is a lot like golf; anyone can write at some level, but talent and practice help.
- E. The difference between success and failure is self-discipline and perseverance.

4. CLASS PROCEDURES:

A. Be in class on time!

B. Bring the following supplies every day:

* *notebook for writing and keeping class notes*

* *composition book which serves as your writer's journal*

* *pencil and ink pen (black or blue ink only)*

* *plenty of college rule notebook paper*

C. Class time will be divided in the following way:

* *exercise time (writing, reading, viewing, listening)*

* *independent work time*

* *sharing and help time*

D. Cooperation with Mr. King and other class members is a necessity... and an expectation.

E. **WRITER'S JOURNALS:** Writer's Journals will be homework typically, and will be checked approximately every two weeks (10 entries per two weeks). This will be graded on the imaginative thought and effort expended on each entry. Journals should include 2 of the following, each time I check them:

1. *reactions to a reading*

2. *comments on a piece of writing you're working on*

3. *story or poem ideas*

4. *scenes or dialogue*

5. *observations*

F. **GRADING:** Grading is based on a simple percentage system as follows:

* *Exercises and class work* 10 points

* *Writer's journals and participation* 20 points

* *Tests* 100 points

* *Major projects* 100 points

* *Final project* 200 points

This grade scale is subject to change. Keep up on everything and assume nothing!

