

Excellence in Writing

Middle School Syllabus

Spring 2010

January 27—Review Dress-ups and Sentence Openers

Discuss ways to break down research subject into smaller topics
using brainstorming and encyclopedia article

HW: Write a paragraph on an important life event in 2009

E-mail me three possible subjects or ideas for your research paper

Read encyclopedia article about your subject

Bring copy of encyclopedia article about your subject to class
(copy web address if on-line)

February 3—Thesis statement

Taking notes

Fused outline/Research example

HW: Read much on your research subject

Make topic outline (five possible ideas)

Bring at least one internet article and at least two books to class

Find picture for cover page (document)

February 10 Documentation—Parenthetical References and Works Cited

Make Works Cited note cards in class

HW: Research first topic of paper (do outline and fused outline)

Type Works Cited page

February 17 Finish Works Cited note cards

HW: Research second and third topic of paper

February 24 Transitions

Dual/Triple verbs, adverbs, or adjectives

HW: Write a rough draft of body of paper

March 3 Introduction and Conclusion

Final Copy Guidelines

Peer Editing

HW: Reread entire paper

Write Introduction and Conclusion

Finish rough draft

March 10 Metaphors and Similes

Creative Story

HW: Write creative story

March 17 Spring Break—no class

March 24 In-class writing prompt

HW: Make corrections/revisions of research paper

March 31 Sentence Openers: “ing” and VSS (very short sentences)

Narrative Story

HW: Write story if not presenting on April 7

April 7 Presentations

HW: Write story if not presenting on April 14

April 14 Presentations

HW: To be determined

April 21 Finish Presentations

Celebration