

Riverside Middle School

8th Grade Writing Assistance Syllabus

Teacher: Mrs. Mathis
Room: E-119
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General Overview

This course provides the student with opportunities to read and analyze selected standards-based literature in an informal and friendly atmosphere. We will read from different types of genres which include: action and adventure, dramas, science fiction, mysteries, poetry, and fantasy. Students will select books of choice with each topic of genre we study.

This course also covers several specific language arts standards including persuasive writing, propaganda, informational text, and the research process. Projects will be completed for each standard above.

Grading

93-100	A	
85-92	B	
77-84	C	
70-76	D	
69 and under		F

Attendance and Make-up Work

Students are urged to keep absences to a minimum. They are responsible for work missed and should be ready with the appropriate assignment on the day they return. All makeup work must be completed within one week after returning to school. Failure to do so will result in a significant deduction in points possible. Students will receive no credit for papers submitted without a name or for assignments left at home, in their lockers, or elsewhere.

Instructional Units and Sequencing:

1st Quarter

Novel study- *Monsters* by Walter Dean Myers
Research Process

2nd Quarter

Informational Text
Persuasion/Propaganda

Each student is required to bring a book to class every day for SSR (sustained silent reading). Each day a student forgets their book, they will lose 10 points for their SSR grade for that week.

Class projects are presented after we complete each genre reading. These presentations are due approximately every three-four weeks. This is a major grade for this class. Time will be given in class to work on projects.

Materials and Resources

Students will need:

- *three- ring binder (or a section in another binder)
- *loose-leaf paper
- *pens or pencils
- *dividers (3)

Rules and Procedures

Classroom rules are posted on the wall of the classroom. My classroom rules are simple and easy to follow. My classroom rules are:

1. Be prepared. Have your materials every day.
2. Be prompt. Be in your seat when the bell rings.
3. Be polite. Respect other people, me, and yourself.

I reserve the right to be creative in dealing with discipline problems as the situation warrants. The basic class rules are clearly posted and there should be no confusion in this regard.

Communicating with Parents

I respond promptly to all messages from parents. Notes are given to students for a variety of reasons and a log is kept of all parental contact. Parents may contact me through the school or directly through my email address listed at the beginning of this document.