

The Writing Seminar: Craft, Composition, and Community

Eligibility: Grade 5 and above

Dates: July 22 (Wed) – August 19 (Wed)

Hours: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM



SIE
CENTRAL

An Advanced College-Preparatory Seminar in Writing



Craft

Refining sentences through deliberate practice and sustained revision.



Composition

Structuring ideas into coherent, purposeful pieces of writing.



Community

Dialogue, collaboration, and shared intellectual inquiry.

Program at a Glance

- Led by MFA-trained, published writing faculty
- Four-week intensive seminar format
- Integrated creative and academic writing
- Curated portfolio of polished works
- Guidance in submitting to recognized student writing competitions

+ Overview

The Writing Seminar is a four-week afternoon program for motivated students in Grade 5 and above seeking immersive, advanced study in writing. Led by SIE Central's MFA-trained, published writing faculty, it is modeled on collegiate workshops and approaches writing as both an academic discipline and a creative craft.

Students engage in scholarly reading, discussion, drafting, and sustained revision. Writing is approached as a tool of expression and a way to articulate the world around us, helping students understand sociopolitical landscapes through personal history and identity.

Over four weeks, each student develops a curated portfolio of polished work, with guided opportunities to prepare and submit work to recognized student writing competitions.

+ Seminar Pillars

Craft

Students refine their writing at the sentence and paragraph level through deliberate practice and sustained revision. By studying how language shapes meaning and tone, they learn how intentional choices influence clarity, credibility, and voice.

Composition

Students learn to structure ideas into coherent, purposeful pieces of writing across genres. Whether crafting narrative, poetry, or analytical work, they practice organizing ideas, shaping structure, and guiding readers through carefully developed thought.

Community

Students participate in a scholarly community of creative minds. Through discussion and the sharing of personal narratives, they present their work to peers pursuing similar intellectual goals and develop their voices within a collaborative practice.



+ Seminar Structure

The seminar follows a **collegiate workshop model** that balances creative and academic writing. Each day is structured to mirror how writers develop ideas, draft with purpose, and revise with care.

Workshop & Craft

- Generative writing exercises
- Close reading of model texts
- Sentence-level revision strategies
- Development of voice and stylistic control

Academic Application

- Analytical and argumentative writing
- Clear thesis development
- Evidence integration and reasoning
- Structured, purposeful organization

+ Culminating Experiences

Portfolio Completion, Presentation, and Submission

Through sustained revision and editorial guidance, students complete a curated portfolio of polished writing across genres, reflecting both academic rigor and deliberate craft.

The seminar culminates with a portfolio presentation and guided preparation for submission to recognized student writing competitions, including the New York Times Student Writing Contest and the Foyle Young Poets Award.

+ Four-Week Learning Arc

Week 1 – Foundations of Writing Practice

Reading like a writer, generating ideas, and developing attention to language and voice

Week 2 – Genre and Possibility

Exploration of poetry and prose as forms for shaping thought and expression

Week 3 – Workshop and Development

Sustained peer workshop, critical feedback, and refinement of emerging drafts

Week 4 – Revision and Portfolio Preparation

Deep revision, editorial refinement, and preparation of curated portfolio work

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