

English Writing for 3rd & 4th Graders

Teacher: Ally Zhang

Students: 3rd and 4th graders who need to strengthen foundational writing skills

Age Range: 8-10

Recommended books to work on at home: A synthesis of various textbooks and visual as well as audio materials

Course Description and Objectives:

On popular demand, this class will be divided into two sections by the instructor (**Please register here no matter which session you need to be in, and instructor will be in contact before semester starts**). Local students from the Greater Indianapolis area (including Indianapolis, Carmel, Fishers, and surrounding areas) will attend the in-person section of the course with hand-on activities and more peer interactions, while out-of-state students attend the online section of the course (which utilizes Zoom as a synchronous teaching/learning tool) at a different time of the week.

Both sections will teach exactly the same content, with the same educational objectives and level of instructor dedication and attention.

Both sections will use Class Blog as an asynchronous tool for learning and student interaction in the online learning community of the writing class. Google Classroom will also be used in both sections for individualized coaching.

The course uses age-appropriate, fun, and multisensory ways to encourage imagination, build writing skills, and foster online academic social interaction and functional literacy. By the end of the academic year, students will be able to:

1. Ideas generation:
 - (1) Use various forms of brainstorming strategies to generate ideas.
 - (2) Create outlines to organize the content generated by brainstorming, reading, and evidence collecting.
2. Genre specific skills:
 - (1) Continue to strengthen author identity, audience awareness, and genre awareness.
 - (2) Fiction: Continue to hone storytelling skills through describing objects, people, animals, places, feelings, action, and dialogues in vivid detail.

- (3) Nonfiction: Compose a literature analysis essay with sound internal logic (comparison/contrast, cause-effect) and evidence.
- (4) State topic sentences clearly and offer support with clear reasons and examples.
- (5) Accurately use dialogue and quotation punctuations.

3. Social functional literacy: Interact with teacher and peers both socially and academically in speech and in writing in linguistically appropriate ways.