

SPU Writing Syllabus 2025- 2026

Megan Cottam

Room 603, extension 1603
megan.cottam@sanpasqualunion.net

Supplies

Students will need one spiral notebook at least 70 pages that will be for Writing only. Students should also have a space for important papers, either a binder tab or a folder. The middle school supply list for all classes can be found below. Students should carry these supplies with them every day.

- #2 pencils, sharpened
- 1 medium-sized eraser
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 1 highlighter
- 1 pair of scissors
- Glue sticks
- Ruler (with inches and centimeters)
- 3x5 index cards
- Folder/Binder/Files with 6 tabs
- Headphones/earbuds to use with Chromebooks *for school purposes only*

All students:

Please bring a water bottle labeled with your name (Glass water bottles are not allowed.)
Phones and other electronics are not allowed on campus.

Curriculum and Overview of Writing Topics

This course is designed to help students develop strong writing skills aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Students will learn to write clearly and effectively for a range of purposes. Emphasis will be placed on narrative, argumentative, and explanatory writing. Students will engage in every step of the writing process. will learn to support claims with relevant evidence, organize ideas logically, and use precise language. This course prepares students for high school writing demands and supports their growth as confident communicators.

Grading Policies

Academic Grade:

The writing academic grade is based on student work, assessments and participation. A heavier emphasis is placed on tests and quizzes as these show us what a student knows and can do independently. We value academic integrity. Copying or cheating on **any** assignment will result in disciplinary action.

90%-100% A	80-89.9% B	70-79.9% C	60%-69.9% D	0-59.9% F
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Assignment Category	Weighted Percentage In Academic Grade
Summative	50%
Formative	35%
Participation	15%

Late assignments:

Absent students have 2 weeks to turn in missing work for full credit. Late work for other reasons can earn up to 80%. After 2 weeks the work will not be accepted. It is the **student's responsibility** to find out what assignment(s) he/she has missed while absent. Please make every effort to schedule vacations and appointments outside of the school day.

Exams:

If you score below a 70%, you may discuss with your teacher whether a retake or additional work is available. You must reach out to your teacher within a week

Citizenship Grade:

A Citizenship Grade reflects a student’s *promptness, attitude, effort, and behavior in class* over the course of the trimester. At SPU, “Saints SOAR!” They are Safe, On-task, Accepting, and Respectful.

Our classrooms will support learning through a positive approach to classroom management that values group work, perseverance, and emotional and physical safety. General expectations include following school rules, being respectful, being responsible, and contributing to the learning environment. Rewards and consequences will be assigned as appropriate.

Outstanding (O): shows outstanding behavior at all times

Satisfactory (S): shows acceptable behavior for a learning environment

Needs Improvement (N): shows behavior that needs improvement

Unsatisfactory (U): shows behavior that is unsatisfactory in a learning environment

Classroom Expectations

Our behavior policies focus on making the classroom an environment that is physically and emotionally safe for everyone.

1. Bring all necessary materials to class.
2. Follow directions the first time.
3. Be respectful and courteous to all.
4. Be in your seat and ready to work at the start of the class.
5. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
6. Keep our classrooms and campus clean.
7. Any plagiarism or other academic dishonesty will **not** be tolerated.
8. All San Pasqual Union school rules apply.