



ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## **Practical Literacy (Grade 12)**

**C**ourtesy · **P**ride · **P**erseverance · **C**ooperation

**Chargers Promoting Positive Change**

The mission of AHS is to prepare all students to reach their potential by teaching them the knowledge, skills and behaviors necessary for academic, civic, and social success. Students will be college and career ready in the ever-changing technological world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century by meeting high expectations, engaging in authentic problem solving, and utilizing critical thinking.

### **Academic Expectations**

- Apply critical thinking skills to solve problems
- Access, evaluate, apply, and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking, and effective use of technology
- Read effectively for a variety of purposes
- Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals

### **Civic Expectation**

- Demonstrate service to the school and community

### **Social Expectation**

- Demonstrate respect for self, others, and property within our school community

### **Ansonia's Vision of a Graduate**

| Content Area: English                                                                                                                                                                                    | Course: TBD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| <b>Vision of Graduate:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication &amp; Collaborator</li> <li>• Critical Thinking</li> <li>• Life Long Learner</li> <li>• Responsible Citizen</li> </ul> | <b>Standards for English Language Arts</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reading: Text complexity and the growth of comprehension</li> <li>2. Writing: Text types, responding to reading, and research</li> <li>3. Speaking and Listening: Flexible communication and collaboration</li> <li>4. Language: Conventions, effective use, and vocabulary</li> </ol> |
| Unit Titles                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Unit 1: Myths of Writing (4 weeks)                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Unit 2: Writing and Catharsis (3 weeks)                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Unit 3: Writing the College Essay (Narrative/Descriptive) (5 weeks)                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Unit 4: Persuasive Essay (4 weeks)                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Unit 5: The Memoir (4 weeks)                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

| Course Overview:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <p>This course for selected seniors provides students an opportunity to expand on skills necessary for effective comprehension and written communication. <i>Fulfills English IV Writing Requirement</i> Prerequisite: English III and teacher recommendation</p> |

## Unit 1: Myths of Writing (4 weeks)

| Priority Standards:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Supporting Standards:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| <p><b>CC.11-12.W.2</b> Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.</p> <p><b>CC.11-12.W.4</b> Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.</p>                                        | <p><b>CC.11-12.W.1</b> Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.</p> <p><b>CC.11-12.W.6</b> Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.</p> |
| Big Ideas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Essential Questions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Common misconceptions about writing can impact our writing practices and habits.</li> <li>Challenge assumptions about writing in order to develop more nuanced and informed perspectives on the craft.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must one have something to say before one writes?</li> <li>When writing an essay, to what extent is the order in which you write each paragraph important?</li> <li>How does one's attitude toward writing affect/shape one's writing?</li> </ul>                                                                                                  |
| AHS Expectations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access, evaluate, apply and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking and effective use of technology.</li> <li>Read effectively for a variety of purposes.</li> <li>Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals.</li> </ul>                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Skills (I will be able to...)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze myths and misconceptions about the writing process.</li> <li>Reflect on personal writing attitudes, experiences, and growth.</li> <li>Generate ideas through brainstorming and exploratory writing.</li> <li>Use writing as a tool for discovery, critical thinking, and self-expression.</li> <li>Engage in meaningful discussions about writing practices and learning.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## Unit 2: Writing and Catharsis (3 weeks)

| Priority Standards:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Supporting Standards:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <p><b>CC.11-12.W.10</b> Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.</p> <p><b>CC.11-12.W.4</b> Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.</p> <p><b>CC.11-12.W.5</b> Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.</p> <p><b>CC.11-12.W.2</b> Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.</p> | <p><b>CC.11-12.W.6</b> Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Big Ideas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Essential Questions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing can be a form of self-care or a way of self-expression.</li> <li>• The power of writing can be used to help individuals process and express their emotions, confront personal challenges, and make meaning out of challenging situations.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is cathartic writing?</li> <li>• How does the act of writing help us to better understand and process our emotions?</li> <li>• What role does vulnerability and honesty play in cathartic writing?</li> <li>• In what ways can cathartic writing lead to personal growth and development?</li> <li>• How can we use writing to gain new insights and perspectives on our lives?</li> <li>• How can we learn to better regulate our emotions and manage stress through writing?</li> <li>• How does writing allow us to connect more deeply with ourselves and others?</li> <li>• How can we continue to make writing a regular practice in our lives for ongoing emotional wellbeing?</li> </ul> |

### **AHS Expectations**

- Access, evaluate, apply and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking and effective use of technology.
- Read effectively for a variety of purposes.
- Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals.

### **Skills (I will be able to...)**

- Analyze and evaluate ideas, arguments, and themes presented in written and spoken texts.
- Reflect on personal values, beliefs, experiences, and perspectives through writing.
- Develop and support ideas with clear explanations, examples, and personal insights.
- Express thoughts, emotions, and opinions effectively for different purposes and audiences.
- Strengthen writing fluency and self-awareness through regular journaling and reflective writing.

### **Unit 3: Writing the College Essay (Narrative/Descriptive)**

**(5 weeks)**

| Priority Standards:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Supporting Standards:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| <p><b>W 11-12.2</b> Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.</p> <p><b>W 11.12.3</b> Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.</p> <p><b>W 11-12.4</b> Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.</p>                                 | <p><b>W 11-12.5</b> Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.</p> <p><b>W 11-12.6</b> Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.</p>                                 |
| Big Ideas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Essential Questions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good writers use a range of strategies for drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading written work.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do I write, speak and present effectively?</li> <li>• Why is it appropriate to employ the principles of the writing process?</li> <li>• How does the audience influence written content?</li> <li>• How do writers develop a voice that is appropriate for their purpose?</li> <li>• How and where can the use of concrete words, figures of speech, and descriptive language assist in conveying the experience?</li> </ul> |
| AHS Expectations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access, evaluate, apply and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking and effective use of technology.</li> <li>• Read effectively for a variety of purposes.</li> <li>• Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Skills (I will be able to...)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of college essay prompts and mentor texts.</li> <li>• Reflect on personal experiences, values, and identity to develop authentic writing.</li> <li>• Generate, organize, and refine ideas through brainstorming and conferencing.</li> <li>• Compose a coherent and engaging personal narrative that addresses a specific purpose and audience.</li> <li>• Revise and edit writing through multiple drafts, incorporating feedback to improve clarity, organization, style, and conventions.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |



## **Unit 4: Persuasive Essay (4 weeks)**

| Priority Standards:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Supporting Standards:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <p><b>W.11-12.7</b> Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.</p> <p><b>W.11-12.8</b> Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.</p> <p><b>W.11-12.9</b> Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.</p> <p><b>W.11-12.1</b> Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.</p> | <p><b>SL.11-12.1</b> Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 11-12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.</p> <p><b>RI.11-12.1</b> Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.</p> <p><b>W.11-12.1A</b> Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.</p> <p><b>L 11-12.1</b> Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</p> |
| Big Ideas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Essential Questions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All writers have something valuable to say, a wide range of choice in how to say it, and a global audience eager to listen.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do we write, speak and present effectively?</li> <li>How do we differentiate between summarizing and offering textual evidence for interpretations?</li> <li>How does the audience influence written content?</li> <li>How do writers develop a "voice" that is appropriate for their purpose?</li> <li>How can concrete words and figures of speech add style to one's writing?</li> <li>When is it important to support a position or take a critical stance?</li> <li>Why is it important to employ the principles of the writing process?</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is revision an important component of the writing process?</li> <li>• How can the use of graphic organizers help enhance a final product?</li> <li>• Why is it important to avoid plagiarism?</li> <li>• How do I give writers credit?</li> </ul> |
| <b>AHS Expectations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply critical thinking skills to solve problems.</li> <li>• Access, evaluate, apply and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking and effective use of technology.</li> <li>• Read effectively for a variety of purposes.</li> <li>• Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Skills (I will be able to...)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze and evaluate how authors develop and support ideas in persuasive and analytical texts.</li> <li>• Generate and refine arguments through brainstorming, discussion, and research.</li> <li>• Develop clear claims and support them with relevant evidence and reasoning.</li> <li>• Engage in collaborative discussions to explore, defend, and challenge ideas.</li> <li>• Revise and strengthen writing through multiple drafts, conferencing, feedback, and editing.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## **Unit 5: The Memoir (4 weeks)**

| Priority Standards:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Supporting Standards:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <p><b>RL.11-12.7</b> Compare and contrast a written story, drama, or poem to its audio, filmed, staged, or multimedia version, analyzing the effects of techniques unique to each medium.</p> <p><b>W.11-12.3</b> Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.</p> <p><b>W.11-12.6</b> Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.</p> | <p><b>SL.11-12.1</b> Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.</p> <p><b>SL.11-12.5</b> Make strategic use of digital media in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.</p> <p><b>L.11-12.3</b> Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.</p> <p><b>L.11-12.5</b> Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</p> <p><b>W.11-12.5</b> Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.</p> |
| Big Ideas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Essential Questions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflecting on personal experiences to develop and convey a unique perspective.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the purpose of writing a memoir?</li> <li>How can we use our personal experiences to explore universal themes and ideas?</li> <li>What strategies can we employ to organize our thoughts and memories into a coherent narrative?</li> <li>How can we use language effectively to engage our readers and convey emotion?</li> <li>How can feedback from peers and teachers help us improve our writing?</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can technology be used to enhance our writing and publishing?</li> </ul> |
| <b>AHS Expectations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access, evaluate, apply and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking and effective use of technology.</li> <li>• Read effectively for a variety of purposes.</li> <li>• Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Skills (I will be able to...)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze and distinguish between memoir, autobiography, and other forms of personal narrative.</li> <li>• Evaluate how authors use memory, description, voice, and reflection to convey meaningful life experiences.</li> <li>• Develop vivid narrative writing that incorporates sensory details, dialogue, characterization, and reflection.</li> <li>• Explore personal experiences and memories to generate authentic and engaging memoir content.</li> <li>• Revise and strengthen narrative writing through brainstorming, conferencing, multiple drafts, and feedback.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                       |

