

CFISD Creative Writing Course Outline and Scope (2026-2027)

Creative Writing Process Standards

The Creative Writing TEKS will not be listed under separate units. Instead, they will be incorporated into all the units since the nature of the course is a recursive process of reading, writing, revising, and editing one's own work as well as the work of other students.

Process TEKS

CW.1A – G, CW.2A – G, CW.3A – C, CW.4A – C

Course Overview

The Creative Writing course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the major genres of fiction and nonfiction while giving them the opportunity to develop versatility as a writer. Within each genre, students will be presented with the rhetorical tools of the genre and have the opportunity to experiment with the genre's forms and structures. A necessary part of the creative course involves reading and studying model texts through the lens of the writer seeking to master the craft of writing. All students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the recursive nature of the writing process, effectively applying the conventions of usage and the mechanics of written English. The students' evaluation of their own writing as well as the writing of others ensures that students completing this course are able to analyze and discuss published and unpublished pieces of writing, develop peer and self-assessments for effective writing, and set their own goals as writers.

First Semester (65 Days)

Unit 1: Personal Narrative & Memoir

Major Skills

Students will learn the following writing terminology and craft skills: personal narrative memoir, biography, autobiography, epistle, elements of story, rhetorical strategies, and revising & editing skills. At the end of this unit, students may write a personal narrative essay or any of its subforms (memoir essay, gastronomical essay, fictional narrative, humorous essay, nature essay, or travel essay) or a college application essay.

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
CW.1A – G, CW.2A – G, CW.3A – C, CW.4A – C	15	N/A	Aug. 12 – Sept. 1, 2026

Unit 2: Poetry

Major Skills

Students will learn the following writing terminology and craft skills: classic and contemporary examples of types and forms of poetry, elements of structure & form, prosody, and use of figurative language in poetry. At the end of this unit, students will create a poetry portfolio that contains a collection of poems written in the style(s) and form(s) specified by the instructor.

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
CW.1A – G, CW.2A – G, CW.3A – C, CW.4A – C	20	N/A	Sept. 2 – 29, 2026

Unit 3: Short Fiction

Major Skills

Students will learn the following writing terminology and craft skills: genres of short fiction, characters in short fiction, dialogue, setting, point of view, structure, use of figurative language in short fiction, tone, theme, and fiction-writing research. At the end of this unit, students will write a short story and/or a piece(s) of flash fiction.

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
CW.1A – G, CW.2A – G, CW.3A – C, CW.4A – C	20	N/A	Sept. 30 – Nov. 5, 2026

Unit 4: Novel

Major Skills

Students will learn the following writing terminology and craft skills: novel, novella, prologue, epilogue, archetypes, scene, frame story, narrative pace, parenthetical observation, subplot, storyboarding or plot graph. Instructors will continue to reference and teach skills from Unit 3, as needed, within the genre of the novel. At the end of this unit, students will produce one of the following: novel (in any form approved by the instructor), novel excerpt (specified word count), novella, or graphic novel.

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
CW.1A – G, CW.2A – G, CW.3A – C, CW.4A – C	26	N/A	Nov. 6 – Dec. 18, 2026

Second Semester (93 Days)

Unit 5: Drama & Scriptwriting

Major Skills

Students will learn the following writing terminology and craft skills: genres of drama, characters in drama, dialogue, setting, point of view, structure, use of figurative language in drama, tone and theme. At the end of this unit, students will produce one of the following: play, screenplay or one-act play.

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
CW.1A – G, CW.2A – G, CW.3A – C, CW.4A – C	25	N/A	Jan. 5 – Feb. 9, 2027

Unit 6: Editorial Writing

Major Skills

Students will learn the following writing terminology and craft skills: methods of brainstorming, research skills, rhetorical situation, and rhetorical strategies. At the end of this unit, students will write one of the following: cultural criticism, art review of one of the following: book, restaurant, film, music, TV show, performer, theater performance, video game, art, architecture, fashion, or dance, or an Op Ed or TED Talk. Reviews or cultural criticisms may be in a genre and form chosen by the student and approved by the course instructor.

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
CW.1A – G, CW.2A – G, CW.3A – C, CW.4A – C	21	N/A	Feb. 10 – March 11, 2027

Unit 7: Science-fiction & Fantasy

Major Skills

Students will learn the following writing terminology and craft skills: genres of science-fiction and fantasy, elements of fantasy fiction, elements of science-fiction, and elements of dystopian fiction. Instructors will continue to reference and teach skills from Units 3 – 5, as needed, within the scope of this unit. At the end of this unit, students will write a piece in the genre of their choosing (short fiction, novel/novella, screenplay, or drama) within one of the subgenres of fantasy or science-fiction.

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
CW.1A – G, CW.2A – G, CW.3A – C, CW.4A – C	25	N/A	March 22 – April 27, 2027

Unit 8: Publishing & Major Project

Major Skills

Students will learn the following writing terminology and craft skills: types of publishing: self vs. traditional, publishing houses, finding agents, setting career goals, literary magazines, building an author's platform, blogging, social media, and marketing, and writing careers. Instructors will reference and re-teach skills as necessary from Units 1 – 7 as they apply to students' passion projects. At the end of this unit, students will

write a piece or create a portfolio of works in a previously-studied genre of their choosing, or in a genre approved by the course instructor.

Priority TEKS	Time (days)	DPM Benchmark	Dates
CW.1A – G, CW.2A – G, CW.3A – C, CW.4A – C	22	N/A	April 28 – May 27, 2027