Research Formula

Draft Proposal

Foundation:

* Writing is a discipline which utilizes teachable skills.
* Writing is powerful tool which can be used in any discipline.
* Writing is not just a tool for communicating what we know but a way of figuring out our thoughts and extending our understanding.
* "Writing is a mode of learning" (Emig, 1977).

Goals:

* Students will produce writing which shows effective use of skills such as spelling, vocabulary use, language use (grammar, mechanics, conventions, sentence structures)
* Students will adapt writing to audience task, purpose, and discipline.
* Students will apply conventions to different genres (e.g. argument, informational/explanatory, narrative).
* Students will learn and use all aspects of the writing process: plan, organize, write, edit to produce effective and coherent writing.
* Students will use writing to analyze, research, and build knowledge.

Freshman Year

First Semester

* Produce effective paragraphs
  + Introductions
  + Body
  + Conclusions
* Focus on developing effective claims
  + How to write a claim
  + Identify alternate/counterclaims
  + Learn to identify supporting evidence
* Transitional words, phrases, and clauses
  + Link sections of text to
    - Create cohesion
    - Clarify relationship to the claim
    - Clarify relationship to reasons and evidence
    - Clarify relationship between claims and counterclaims
* Review writing conventions at each stage of the process

Second semester (currently a project with Religion 9)

* Literary analysis focused on the Christ figure
* MLA formatting guidelines
* Introduction to research skills
* Introduction to media literacy

Anticipated depth of knowledge:

Recall & Reproduction

Basic Application of Skills & Concepts

Sophomore Year (assumes depth of knowledge expressed in the previous level)

First Semester

* Review MLA formatting guidelines, research skills, plagiarism, and media literacy
* Sentence Patterns
* Explore different types of sources
  + Primary & Secondary
  + Print & Non-Print
* Continued literary analysis opportunities of varying lengths and forms

Second Semester

* Project-based research project to produce a 2-4 page paper (can be done in conjunction with another academic team). May include a presentation component.

Anticipated depth of knowledge:

* For new skills
  + Recall & Reproduction
  + Basic Application of Skills & Concepts
* For review of skills
  + Strategic Thinking & Application

Junior Year

First Semester

* Review MLA formatting guidelines, research skills, plagiarism, and media literacy
* Review sentence patterns
* Review types of sources
* Expand research skills through further application
* Continued literary analysis opportunities of varying lengths and forms

Second Semester

* Expanded research paper to produce a 4-6 page paper. May include a presentation component.

Anticipated depth of knowledge:

* For new skills
  + Recall & Reproduction
  + Basic Application of Skills & Concepts
* For review of skills
  + Strategic Thinking & Application
  + Extended Thinking

Senior Year

* Review MLA formatting guidelines, research skills, plagiarism, and media literacy
* Continued literary analysis opportunities of varying lengths and forms
* Senior Capstone Project to be completed as a year-long project in conjunction with Religion and Government classes

Anticipated depth of knowledge:

* Strategic Thinking & Application
* Extended Thinking