

English Writing Instructor: Amanda Chen

Amanda Chen is a sophomore majoring in Philosophy and minoring in Middle Eastern Studies and English (Creative Writing) at Dartmouth College. Currently, she's an intern at the New Hampshire Supreme Court for Justice James P. Bassett and an intern at Tuck Advisors, a sell-side investment bank.

As a writer, Amanda has been writing since she was in Middle School. She's won regional and state awards at the National Scholastic Art all four years of high school and awards on the national level (Gold Medals) for two of those years. She was a 2017-2018 semi-finalist of the Scholastic National Students Poets Program and received the 2017-2018 NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing Certificate for Superior Writing.

As someone who's been through the college admissions process and who has been a college application consultant for the last two years, Amanda understands how to write and sell a personal statement. As someone who's never gotten below an A in both high school and college writing-intensive courses and someone who was the Debate Team Captain at Westlake High School, Amanda understands how to write argumentative essays that are necessary to succeed in any course that requires writing.

English Reading Comprehension and Writing Fundamentals: Grades: 3-6

Sessions: 10, Tuition: \$250, **Sunday 1:00-2:00 PM CT**

Course Description:

Reading and writing is hard, especially when first starting out. Rubrics can be incredibly confusing to follow and teachers spend too much time on high-level concepts without breaking them down into their base components. But these skills are incredibly important for a student's life, even beyond school. Having a good GPA that's key to admissions at top schools requires good reading comprehension and writing skills. College requires students to write ten page papers. Careers in everything from STEM to law require individuals to have these skills in order to succeed.

This summer intensive will focus on the fundamentals of reading comprehension and writing fundamentals in an approachable, comprehensive way. Students will learn how to break a text down into its basic components using techniques like mind mapping, graphics, and annotating more advanced than just highlighting. They'll learn how to critically question the text and challenge what they read. They'll learn how to structure paragraphs and basic grammar tricks that will elevate their writing to the next level. They'll learn practical tools from someone who knows exactly what teachers want to see in a student's writing. They'll develop every trick in the book when it comes to reading comprehension and writing while learning to love reading outside the classroom.

This summer intensive includes extensive individual comments on homework and on optional extra homework. It offers flexible lesson plans that will address every student's need in order to create the most individualized experience possible in a group setting. Workshop classes and in-class exercises will also be built in so more individualized feedback can be offered. Optional office hours can be arranged if the student wishes for more one-on-one feedback on class material.

Critical Reading and Persuasive Writing: Grades: 5-10

Sessions: 10, Tuition: \$300, **Sunday 2:15-3:15PM**

Course Description:

Reading critically and writing persuasively is hard. It's not so much an exact science, but an art, and it's one of the most crucial skills to succeeding in middle school and high school writing classes. It's the fundamental skill behind higher education, where some courses can require thirty page final term papers, and for the workforce. Whether the assignment is a literature review, science report, or argumentative essay, knowing how to write compelling, concise, and precise arguments is crucial to succeeding in classes.

This summer intensive will focus on the fundamentals of critical reading and of the persuasive essay, one of the most common assignments in high school and even college. Students will learn strategies on how to unpack the text and really digest the information beyond surface-level meaning. They'll be equipped with strategies to pull the argument from texts as hard as philosophical or academic papers through a series of in-class exercises, workshops, and

assignments. They'll learn to appreciate the text and incorporate it into their own knowledge. They'll learn how to research, how to structure arguments (including basic argument structure), and how to persuade the reader using a variety of appeals: ethos, pathos, and logos. They'll learn how to cite sources and how to convince any reader. They'll become so adept at the art of persuasion, their own parents will have a difficult time saying no to their well-warranted, well-executed, and well-structured arguments.

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Creative and Competition Writing: Grades: 5-12

Sessions: 10, Tuition: \$350 **Sunday 3:30-4:30PM**

Course Description:

Stories are how we communicate with one another. Whether it's trying to convince someone to invest in your company or trying to get into your dream college or even your dream job, being able to tell your story is crucial. Stories can be found anywhere, even in conversations with our friends and family. But often our stories can get lost in translation when we attempt to write them out. And oftentimes we don't realize how much people want to read written stories, to connect with strangers through the bridge woven by experiences and words. We don't realize that writing can be leveraged and appreciated in writing competitions all across the country.

This summer intensive will change that common view of creative writing. It will focus on creative prose, specifically on the techniques of memoir writing (which is useful for the personal essay common in college admissions) and of short stories. Learn the tools of creative prose: how to write descriptively, show emotion, and utilize precisely chosen details and emotive imagery. Learn how to avoid the common pitfalls that students make, like telling and not showing. Learn how to then use your writing to succeed in writing competitions from Scholastic Art and Writing Awards to the NCTE Writing Awards from someone who has done well on the national level in both competitions. Learn how to tell your story.

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