

# Our Lady of Lourdes High School

## **COURSE TITLE: Foundations for Research and Writing Syllabus: Summer 2020**

**Teacher:** Ms. Rachel Crittenden  
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### **COURSE TEXTS:**

*Writer's Inc: A Student Handbook for Writing and Learning*

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to introduce and/or reiterate the foundations of academic research and writing. Students will learn to compose and develop a short, expository research paper from the ground up—starting with the basics of paragraph construction and moving through research techniques, source citation, argument development, revision, and the arrival at a final draft. Students are expected to attend and participate in live Google Meets, engage in a variety of instructional videos, complete daily writing assignments, and by the end of the course, complete a five-paragraph expository research paper on one of three provided topics.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Over the next four weeks, students will learn how to draft and develop a thesis statement, how to determine website and database authenticity, how to successfully integrate outside sources for the purpose of supporting an argument, and how to properly cite those sources both internally and bibliographically. Students will also learn the power of paraphrasing, and the art of expanding upon quoted sources as they utilize gathered information to make connections for their readers.

### **PRIMARY LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, each student will be able to:

- Compose clear, concise paragraphs that adhere to the OLL paragraph template and thus include a topic sentence, purposeful internal organization, and a summarizing sentence, as well as details/quotes from external sources and their appropriate MLA citations
- Construct a strong, thought-provoking thesis statement and properly integrate it into a well-developed introductory paragraph

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- Locate reliable online sources and properly integrate those sources into well-organized body paragraphs
- Establish, sustain, and defend an argument over the course of a five-paragraph expository essay
- Demonstrate understanding of proper MLA formatting, including both internal and bibliographic citations, and,
- Utilize and apply both preliminary instruction and instructor feedback in developing/revising a first draft and carrying it through to completion.

### **COURSE POLICIES:**

**A contract outlining summer course policies and procedures will be provided to the students and parents. All parties must agree to and sign this contract before the course begins**

### **COURSE OUTLINE AND MAPPING:**

**Week 1:** Constructing paragraphs, developing their content, and transitioning between them

**Week 2:** Finding a topic, gathering information, and drafting/integrating a thesis statement

**Week 3:** Structuring an argument, integrating/citing sources, and developing a first draft

**Week 4:** Revision, expansion, and completion