**Disclosure Document**

Language Arts Lab/Writing/Salt Lake Center for Science Education

2016/17- Ms. Brady - Room 1037

Phone: 801-578-8226

[elliebeth.brady@slcschools.org](mailto:elliebeth.brady@slcschools.org)

**Course Description**

Writing is a class designed to help middle school students enhance literacy skills with a special emphasis on various types of writing. Students will write across genres and share their work with the class. Students will be graded on assignment completion and participation. This class will be run in a workshop style: a cool combination of being creative with your mind and using the world around us for inspiration. We will use readings and writings to express everything in your imagination. If you like to take creative risks and stretch your brain, this is the class for you. Each meeting will give you a chance to read great stories from a wide variety of sources, write stories and poems about yourself and move your mind in new ways. You will create, express, and relax through writing.

**Course Goals and Objectives**

* Write in new and unexpected ways!
* Comprehend and evaluate informational text (i.e., textbooks, newspapers, advertisements, posters) using key comprehension strategies: summarizing, questioning, previewing, text structure analysis, visualizing, inferring and metacognition
* Comprehend literature using elements of narrative and poetic text.
* Retell or summarize and make connections to clarify thinking through writing.
* Students will understand the process of seeking and giving information in conversations, group discussions, written forms, and oral presentations.
* Students will increase knowledge and use of key, grade-level academic vocabulary

**Course Materials**

Materials will include informational texts drawn from 6th, 7th, and 8th core content objectives. This will include, but not be limited to the humanities, science, social studies and mathematics. Students will also read articles from local and national newspapers that are timely and relevant. Levelled fiction and non-fiction texts from a wide variety of genres will be included. Students will have a writer’s journal that I will provide.

**Format and Procedures**

* Daily journal writing
* Workshop setting for writing projects
* Reading for inspiration
* Partner work and peer editing
* Regular visits to the Day/Riverside Library

**Course Requirements (Assignments, Attendance, Tardies, Discipline, etc.)**

* Students are expected to attend school regularly, be on time, and come prepared to learn. Parents will be contacted when their child has too many absences or a problem with tardiness.
* Students will be expected to read and write independently and in small groups daily.
* No late work is accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances and/or prior arrangement is made.
* Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students do not learn when they copy from the internet or another source. Further, they are being dishonest. Any cheating or plagiarism will result in an assignment grade of “0” zero.

**Grading Procedures**

Grades are based on the following grading scale:

100 – 90% = A

80 – 89%= B

70 – 79% = C

60 – 69% = D

60 and below = F

In addition to the academic grade, a citizenship grade will be given based on attendance, tardies and classroom behavior. These grades are: **H=Honors, S=Satisfactory, N=Needs improvement, U=Unsatisfactory.**

**Make-up Work** is allowed **for excused absences or under special circumstances with agreement of the teacher**.Upon returning to school, it’s the student’s responsibility to **see me before or after school to get missed work**. Students will have **three school days** to turn in late work. Any make-up work must be turned in one week prior to the last day of the quarter. For extenuating circumstances, a conference with the parent is required. Grades and current assignments may be accessed using the Salt Lake City School District Power School program on line.

**Webpage**: <http://my.uen.org/55594>

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Please sign below and return:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Class Expectations**

**1. Be Ready -** Have homework done, have your notebook, library or assigned book and materials ready to work each day. Listen fully to instructions and lectures, pay attention to examples and modeling of work. Ask questions if you don’t understand something.

**2. Be Responsible -** Take ownership of your learning, strive for excellence, and always turn in your best quality work. Participate fully in class discussions, group and partner work. Use every opportunity to learn and grow.

**3. Be Respectful -** Treat others with thoughtfulness, kindness and consideration. Be part of a positive learning environment in the classroom. We are a community which helps each other grow and develop.

**Student: I have read and understand this disclosure. I will honor it while in Ms. Brady’s class.**

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**Signature Date**

**Parents: My child has discussed the disclosure with me. I understand it and will support it.**

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**Signature Date**