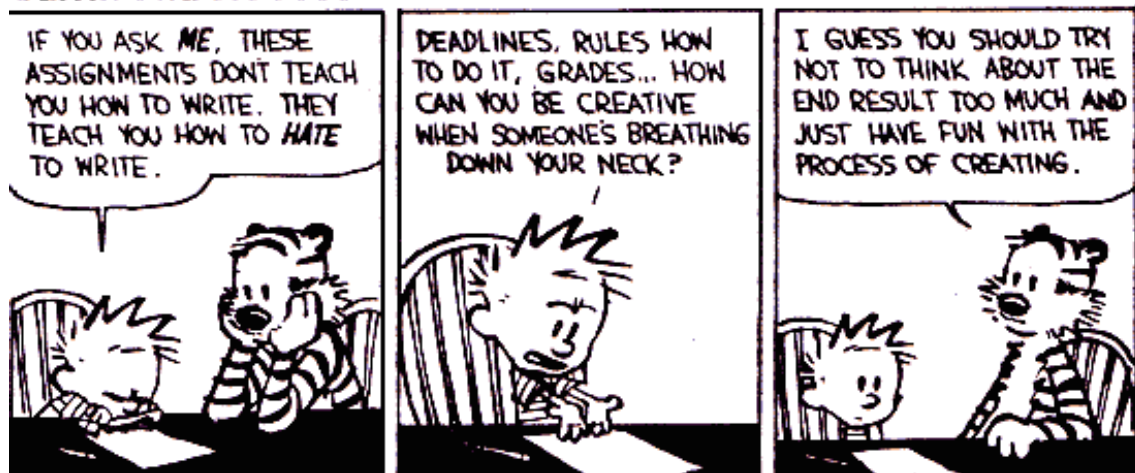


Welcome to Mr. Mazzuca's 6th Grade Writing Class!

Calvin and Hobbes



“Good writing is supposed to evoke sensation in the reader. Not the fact that it is raining, but the feeling of being rained upon.” – E.L. Doctorow

Welcome to the world of writing! We are going to have a wonderful year! This class is a **safe** environment where every person is treated with **respect**. I do not tolerate disrespect or bullying of any kind! My hope is that each student leaves my class feeling inspired and confident in his/her ability to write well. This class will focus primarily on the common core curriculum standards for writing and language, including the following target areas:

- The writing process
- Production and distribution of written material
- Research writing
- Creative/Descriptive writing
- Expository/Informative writing
- Persuasive/Argumentative writing
- Narrative writing
- Grammar and language usage
- Presentation Skills

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- 1 Folder with pockets
- 1 spiral notebook (1 subject) for note taking – You may need to replace one later in the year.
- #2 Pencils and pens (black or blue), correcting pens (any color) and a highlighter (any color)
- Loose Leaf Paper

I will do my best to let you know, via a sign on my classroom door, what materials you will need each day.

For the record, the following materials will be known as “The Usual Suspects”:

- Writing utensils (pencils and pens, as listed above)
 - Note-Taking Notebook
 - Folder
-
- Internet access – for the majority of our assignments, we will be utilizing Google Classroom and GoogleDocs. Please make sure you contact me with any internet issues you encounter so an action plan can be put into place to complete assignments without being penalized for being late.

ABSENCE PROCEDURES

If you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to retrieve missed notes and handouts. I will deliver missed assignments to the office if a homework request is made. Use my website to view announcements and homework (this can be accessed through the district website).

You have the number of days missed plus one day to make up homework and class assignments.

Quizzes and tests will be made up within two days of returning.

Projects and essays are assigned well in advance and must be turned in the day you return from an absence.

TARDY PROCEDURE

I will close the door to the classroom when class is beginning. If you enter after the door has closed, you are tardy. Every fourth tardy without a pass will result in a detention.

LTR (Leaving the Room) PROCEDURE

Each student will need to inform me if he or she needs to leave the room for any reason. This is for YOUR own safety! I must know where students are at all times in case of an emergency. Leaving the room to go to the nurse and/or bathroom is okay unless it becomes a habit each day you are in my class.

If you need to miss class for a lesson, group or any other reason, you need to report to me first before heading to your other destination.

LATE / MISSING WORK

Homework assignments that we review in class will not be accepted as late work because the answers have been discussed. You will receive a zero for that assignment (if you are absent, you will turn in the assignment when you return to school).

Other homework assignments and projects MUST be completed.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in my classroom. If a student is being dishonest, he/she will receive a zero for his/her work on that assignment, quiz, or test. That student will also make a call to his/her parent/guardian and explain what happened. While I encourage you to ask a friend for help, copying someone else's

work is unacceptable, whether you know that person or not. Please refer to your assignment notebook for information about academic dishonesty.

WORK THAT IS BELOW EXPECTATIONS

You need to be your own advocate! If you receive a grade that does not meet my expectations or is below your own expectations you will need to meet with me to review and to improve the assignment. My goal is to help you learn and succeed, but you need to put forth the effort. You will need to:

1) Come in and meet with me

Then

2) Re-do the assignment

I encourage my students to take responsibility and advocate for themselves. Students who have questions or need explanation about an assignment should come to me themselves.

MAJOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

These assignments will be longer, and students will be given more time to complete them.

Essays

Students will write a number of essays throughout the school year. Some of these will be cold prompts, which means that students will have 2 – 3 days to complete the entire essay on their own with limited resources. Others will be working prompts, for which students will engage in a more structured and lengthy writing process.

Projects

Students will be assigned projects throughout the year that will enrich student learning and reflect authentic real-world experiences.

Minor Writing Assignments

These assignments will be shorter, and students will be given less time to complete them.

Writing Portfolios

Students writing will be collected in their GoogleDoc account, as well as in their journals. Occasionally, students will be asked to write on paper that is distributed in class. These papers, regardless of whether or not they are turned in, should be kept in the student's writing folder.

Contact Information

I will do my best to be available to my students whenever needed and if I am not readily available, I will schedule a time with the student to meet and discuss what the need is at the time.

I can be reached the following ways:

- In person in room 131
- By email - [**mazzucaj@hawthorn73.org**](mailto:mazzucaj@hawthorn73.org)
- By phone - (847) 990-4493