

...On the College Track...

Writing for Academics

Goal: To help your child feel confident and prepared to take a college class and not be overwhelmed when the time comes to write that first paper! The goal is to slowly go step-by-step through the process of writing a paper for academics. As this is the introductory class, we will start from the beginning in how/where to gather information, the basics of what should be included in a paper, and building familiarity with the basic things teachers and professors would be looking for. We will also explore different ways of taking notes, gathering information, and organizing so each child will figure out the best way that works for them. All research topics will be self-selected, so your child can write about what they are interested in!

Topics Include:

- Organizing your materials
- Note-taking: finding the way that works for YOU
- Gathering and combining information from multiple sources
- Giving credit to where you got your information (sources)
- How to use ideas from other places without copying...avoiding plagiarism!
- Citing your sources
- Developing your ideas
- Formatting a research paper and an opinion paper (What will the professor be expecting?)
- All the “little details”...grammar, mechanics, punctuation, common mistakes
- Editing and Revising
- How to give and receive feedback
- What is a thesis? What is an outline? Why does any of this matter? Understanding the vocabulary of what your professor may be saying...
- How might you be graded? What is a rubric?

Important Note: These skills take a long time to master! This is a general guideline of what I would like to see accomplished, but it will likely take a series of two or three classes to get it all done! 😊 I will adjust what I focus on based on the needs of the kids on the group. ***The initial focus will be to build the skills and strategies to write a single, basic research paper.*** We need to build the foundation of this kind of writing, and then develop the skills needed to enhance the quality of writing to what would be considered “high-quality” in an early-college class. After the research paper, students also need to learn how to write an opinion/argumentative essay, which requires some different skills, but is needed in college just as frequently as research papers.

Let me know if I can answer any questions! You can reach me at literacyjourneys@gmail.com. 😊

Jill Kohlenberg, Literacy Coach