



Fundamentals of Critical Writing

Focusing on essay, literary analysis, research, and university-level documentation skills, *Fundamentals of Critical Writing* trains college-bound students to create and defend compelling arguments, comprehend challenging source materials, and hone grammar and usage skills.

The Instructor, a degreed English teacher and curriculum writer, edits and evaluates essays, provides feedback, tracks of assignment scores, and provided private access to scores online. Students who succeed in this course are invited to enroll in *Honors Worldview English* classes at RISE and are **over-equipped to succeed in any college composition class**.

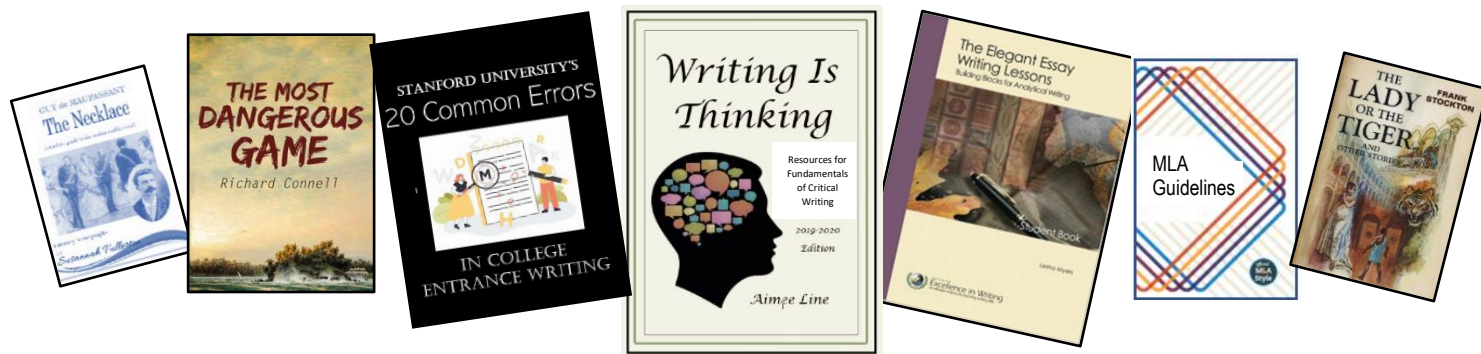
Specifically, students in this class:

- Practice foundational essay skills (thesis statements, parallelism, topic sentences, supporting evidence, clincher statements, transitions, introductions, conclusions, methods of organization, and rhetorical devices).
- Adopt college research skills (annotation, summarization, source cards, note cards, quotation blending, parenthetical citations, Works Cited pages).
- Employ essential literary terminology and critical analysis techniques (simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, alliteration, onomatopoeia, setting, plot, point of view, character types, conflict, theme).
- Review Stanford University's "Twenty Common Grammar and Usage Errors" and Texas A&M University's "12 Ways to Cut Clutter".
- Identify plagiarism in four forms and study avoidance strategies.

Required Texts:

Writing Is Thinking: Resources for Fundamentals of Writing with Aimee Line (covered by class fees; includes short stories, evaluation rubrics, Stanford University's 20 Common Grammar and Usage Error in College-Entrance Writing, essay outlines and graphic organizers, mentor essays, and MLA guidelines)

The Elegant Essay: Building Blocks to Analytical Writing STUDENT BOOK by Lesha Myers (ISBN# [9780977986019](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9780977986019))



Plan Ahead! After taking Fundamentals of Critical Writing, students may take:

- Worldview English (Ancient Literature) or Life Skills English (American Entrepreneurship and Ingenuity)
- Worldview English (American Literature) or Life Skills English (Artful Persuasion and Business Development)
- Worldview English (British Literature) or Life Skills English (Effective Communicators and Responsible Citizens)