



Writing Major Application Package

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Writing Major family! The Writing Major is an exciting program where students with various writing interests come together to share stories, explore genres and styles, and open their eyes to the whole world around them, not *just* the academic one.

My commitment as a teacher is to love, motivate, and challenge you and your classmates to grow as writers. Your commitment as a student is to love, motivate and challenge yourself and your classmates to do the same. We will be writing all forms in this class – this is not a Poetry major, or a Fiction major, it is a WRITING major and this means that we will be exploring many different types of story. You'll need to be willing to try them all. The writing room is filled with a community of learners who will help you take risks and grow within a challenging but supportive environment.

Please know that you do not have to be a gifted writer or a good speller to be successful in this major. You do have to be a kind person, a gifted collaborator, and a **self-motivated learner**.

Please complete all 3 parts of the application and submit a hard copy to me. If you are from another school, I look forward to meeting and chatting with you. Please make sure that you submit this from your own email address – I look forward to meeting your parents at some point too, but as you enter the senior years of high school, it is important that you *yourself* take on the responsibility and independence with this submission! Submissions will only be accepted directly from students. If successful, you will be contacted for an in person interview.

Feel free to drop into Room 92 or email me if you have any questions.

Kylie Mantei

Room 92 kmantei@sd35.bc.ca

Writing Major Application - Part 1 of 3

Please copy the following questions into a Word document, type out the answers beneath each question, and submit a printed copy to me if you are an LFAS student (or, if you are from another school, you may attach your responses as a PDF file)

Name:

Current Grade:

Use **complete sentences**, providing as much detail as possible.

- 1) Writing Major explores all the creative elements of writing and storytelling. We do not focus on academic writing, but rather the deep, rich voice needed to craft fiction and poetry. Knowing this, **give three reasons why you want to join Writing Major.**
- 2) Think of a memorable moment from the last six months, and describe it as a scene. Through this scene, explain how the moment was memorable. As the reader, I should be able to understand. This could be inspired by a speech you heard, a quotation you read, a conversation you had with someone, a newspaper article or book you read, a line in a movie, a text message etc.
- 3) Writing Majors are *passionate*. They care about the world around them and notice things that others don't. If you could write an empowering speech about one of your passions, using beautiful words, that could instill that same passion in an audience of thousands, what would your speech be about? Provide as many details as you can.

Writing isn't just a skill, it's an attitude. The answers to the following questions will determine whether you will feel successful in the writing room and are willing to support the success of your classmates:

- 4) Are you an independent learner? Explain what this means to you.
- 5) Tell me about your general attendance. When you're going to be away from school, do you make sure to message your teacher ahead of time, find out what you're going to miss, and come to class the next day prepared? Are you away often for any reason I should be aware of?

- 6) If you don't get your work in on time, how much ownership do you take over this? How do you handle discussions about late work with your teacher?
- 7) What are your punctuality habits? In Writing Major, we begin class at the bell. Do you make efforts to get to class on time, with everything you need to learn?
- 8) Are you willing to participate **regularly** in an online writing community, where you will share work and critique with your peers on a weekly basis?
- 9) Good writers are good readers. Do you read often? Why or why not? Who is your favourite writer or poet? (You can choose more than one).
- 10) Tell me about the last three books (fiction, nonfiction, or poetry) that you read and loved.
- 11) Are you willing to accept the commitment required to be a writing major? For example, extra hours outside of class time may be required to attend after school field trips, rehearsals and writing shows. Are you willing to spend the time outside of writing class completing your stories and workshops?
- 12) Are you willing to read your writing out loud in class in a supportive environment?
- 13) Are you willing to put away your cell phone for the duration of writing classes? (Please consider this question carefully, cell phone use is often considered the thief of creativity and you'll often be asked to keep it tucked away during writing blocks).
- 14) Do you consider yourself a supportive member of your classes and groups in high school? Can you give examples to illustrate this?
- 15) Are you directable? In other words, are you willing and **wanting** to improve your writing by accepting constructive feedback and taking part in the editing process? Are you willing to re-write and edit your work multiple times in order to create a piece of work that is well above a standard level? Explain how you feel about this process. Give examples if possible.
- 16) Are you willing to try and pursue many different forms of writing? Poetry, fiction, songwriting, spoken work, creative nonfiction, memoir – we will explore all of these types of stories in class and you'll need to be willing to try them all. Which are you most excited about? Most nervous about?

Teacher Reference for Writing Major – Part 2 of 3

Please have your most recent English teacher fill out this confidential questionnaire. Please have them email it to kmantei@sd35.bc.ca *directly*, or give a printed version to you in a **sealed envelope**. LFAS should not receive this reference directly from the student.

Teacher name: _____

Student name: _____

1) Student's current percentage in the class: _____

2) **Student's work ethic:** (*please circle one*)

This includes a student's ability to work *in class* without distraction, as well as their ability to hand in good quality work on or before the deadline.

- a) Exceptional
- b) Good – may need one or two extensions within a semester
- c) Sometimes late/incomplete/not their best draft
- d) Often late/needing extensions/incomplete

3) **Student's attendance/lates:** (*please circle one*)

Is this student at their desk, ready to learn, with all appropriate materials (notebook, paper/pen, laptop) **at the bell**?

- a) Exceptional
- b) Good, almost always on time and only has excused absences
- c) Sometimes absent/late without excuse
- d) Often absent/late without excuse

4) **Student's willingness to be supportive of the lesson and participate in class discussions:** (*please circle one*)

Is this student an enthusiastic participant in class? Do they participate in activities, try out lessons, and engage in class discussion? Is their phone away, headphones away, etc?

- a) Exceptional
- b) Good
- c) Average
- d) Rarely participates
- e) Disruptive

Thank you for your time and energy in completing this important reference letter. In this final section, as a separate document, please speak candidly as to how successful you think the candidate will be in a rigorous creative major, where they will be expected to fully participate in every class, read and write stories, always meet deadlines for major assignments, and be consistently willing to improve upon their work. Please also speak to how they contribute to the classroom community. (*Please attach reference to this form*).

Teacher Signature: _____

Writing Major Application – Part 3 of 3

Portfolio Submission

Please submit the following pieces of writing (typed, hard copy)

a) 2–3 pieces of creative writing that you’re proud of. This can be poetry, songs, prose, creative nonfiction, or a combination. This should be writing you’ve completed within the last year.

Poetry should be at least 1 page, typed, double spaced.

Fiction or prose writing should be at least 500 words.

- *For each piece of writing submitted*, please enclose a brief writeup explaining why you chose this piece of writing for me to consider. Why are you proud of it?

b) A copy of a writing assignment marked by your most recent English teacher. Ideally, please include the draft and final copy.

c) “Something Else”. An element of wonder or surprise, something that will allow me to get to know you better as a person. This could be an artifact, an art piece, a film recommendation, a recipe – I’m excited to see what you choose to send me!