

Summer Writing Assignment

English Department
For incoming Sophomores and Juniors

During your time at Woodlands, you will see your writing transform. One of our goals for every graduate is that she will see herself as a writer of some kind. She will be able to write with control and clearly express her ideas and opinions. Research shows that this happens through practice. So we would like to help you put in the time you need to become the writer you can be.

For this assignment, you will practice Daily Writing.¹ You will start this summer and continue the practice throughout the rest of your time at Woodlands. The goal is to have you writing every day. This is what great writers do; According to Professor Callahan, of Columbia University, “writing daily has been found by a great many writers to be a key to successful writing. It promotes the deepening of thought by maintaining and continuing attention over time, and it often yields new ideas and discoveries through the continuing dialogue with the self.” Writing skills are directly tied to our ability to communicate effectively and think critically.

What: There is no rule about what you should write! You could write about your day, or what you see on TV. You could write about your family or made-up characters. You could journal or write poetry or fiction or non-fiction. Your writing will be private, and you will not be asked to share it. You may decide to write about something different each time, or you may decide to work on the same piece of writing for several days in a row. You are encouraged to be inquisitive and reflective in your writing. Take risks!!! Check [this site](#) if you need inspiration.

When: Write 10-15 minutes each day. Many writers find it helpful to write at the same time every day, so it becomes part of the routine. Some find it best to write first thing in the morning or just before bed. Experiment with different times and places and see if you can find the most productive combination for you. Another option can be writing in larger chunks throughout your summer. For example: you may decide to return to your writing every couple of days instead of every single day. As long as you are returning to your developed pieces throughout the summer months, that is all that is important.

How: There is also no rule about this. If you prefer writing by hand, then buy a new composition notebook or journal at the beginning of the summer, something you will be excited to pick up every day. If you prefer to type, save all your files in a folder titled, “Summer 2023 Daily Writing.” Either way, please include the date for each entry. If you choose to change what you wrote before, make your revisions on a new copy so we can see your progress.

What we will do with it: You will be asked to bring in your notebook or computer during the first week of school. You will read through it yourself, and you will pick one bit you want to develop into a finished piece. We will talk much more about this when school starts; no need to worry about this step now. Think of this as a jumping-off point for the school year as you continue to develop as writers. We want you to have fun. Just go out and write! New to Woodlands Academy? Not to worry! This is a low-pressure assignment inspired to give you the opportunity to think and write as you enjoy your summer experience. If there are any questions about the process or expectations for this assignment, please email Ms. Brysiewicz.

¹ Assignment originally created by Professor Sheridan Blau and Professor Nicole Callahan (Teachers College, Columbia University), adapted by Mrs. Shannon Dey, with contributions from Mrs. Erin Brysiewicz and Ms. Susan Dickman