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NMH SUMMER SESSION

**2010**  
**College Prep Program**  
**ACADEMIC WRITING**

This course provided an introduction to the writing process, to basic research, and to writing skills.

The class explored the writing process and divided it into five stages: prewriting, outlining, revising, editing, and publishing. For their first substantial assignment, the students produced a character analysis that required them to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of how to structure an essay and incorporate text within their paragraphs. Following this unit, they read a short drama and began their research papers. As part of the unit for the drama, they engaged in a debate that allowed them to practice public speaking as well as organizational skills. Their second essay was a literary analysis of a play. For their research paper, they brainstormed and researched topics of interest to them. They focused primarily on the research process and citation skills. Finally, they wrote a four to six page research paper. Throughout the summer, the students concentrated on writing strong thesis statements, developing focused paragraphs, and analyzing texts.

The students undertook three hours of homework every night. Their homework included readings, response questions, vocabulary exercises, and writing. They took all of their major assignments through multiple drafts, relying on input from their peers and comments from one or more of the teachers to identify areas for improvement. Weekly review of mechanics and punctuation rules was also an important component of in-class work, as were exercises designed to hone individual writing style. The quality of the students' essays, their participation in class, performance on quizzes and a final exam, and their overall effort formed the basis of their grades and evaluations. The class met for three hours, six days a week, for the five-week session.

**READINGS:**

Chevalier, Tracy. *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. New York: Plume, 2001  
Lunsford, Andrea. *Easy Writer*. Bedford Books, 2000  
Miller, Arthur. *A Memory of Two Mondays*. Dramatists Play Service, 1998  
Pollan, Michael. *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, Young Reader's ed. Dial, 2009

Master Teacher: Alex Loud  
Linden Hill School

Teaching Interns: Eli Lovely  
Wheaton College

Carla Cevasco  
Middlebury College