

## Academic Writing (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the principles and skills they need to write successfully in a classroom setting. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Make good word choices
- Understand the structure of a paragraph
- Understand the structure of an essay
- Use proper organization
- Choose effective supports
- Use the “characteristics of good writing”
- Analyze and effectively revise their own work.

### UNITS:

1. The Word (parts of speech)
  - a. Nouns
  - b. Verbs
  - c. Adjectives
  - d. Adverbs
  - e. Pronouns
  - f. Prepositions
2. The Sentence
  - a. Syntax
  - b. Variety
  - c. Complexity
3. Effective Tools in the Writing Process
  - a. Sensory images
  - b. Figurative language
  - c. Spatial and personal description
  - d. Narratives
  - e. Dialogue
  - f. Point of View
  - g. Structure
4. Characteristics of Good Writing
  - a. Unified
  - b. Coherent
  - c. Precise
  - d. Organized
  - e. Vivid
  - f. Efficient
5. The Paragraph
  - a. Topic sentence
  - b. Support
  - c. Order
6. The Essay
  - a. Thesis Statement
  - b. Outline
  - c. Introduction and conclusion
  - d. Body
7. Evaluation
  - a. Editing
  - b. Revision

TEXT: *Wordsmith* by Janice B. Cheaney