

Teaching Writing in High School

Mrs. Meredith Curtis

Questions about Writing?

- What Kind of Writing Should My Teen Do in High School?
- What is the difference between teaching fiction writing and non-fiction writing?
- What is the difference between formal and informal writing?
- How can I help my teen write a research paper?
- What if my child is not a good writer?
- How can I use blogging to teach writing?
- What is the difference between bad, good, and excellent writing?
- How can I put together my own writing class?

TEACHING WRITING IN HIGH SCHOOL

WITH WRITING CLASSES YOU CAN USE



BY MEREDITH CURTIS

Where Do I Start?

- More than SAT Essays & Research Paper
- God's Heart for Us to Communicate Truth
- You Can Teach Your Teen to Write
- Goal for All Writing to be Concise, Clear, Concrete, & Gracious
- Goal is to Impact the Intended Audience

The Speaking & Listening Path to Writing

- Clear, Concise, Gracious, Proper Grammar
- “Would you say, ‘Me and?’”
- Conversation that is Intellectual, rather than Gossip & Foolish Chatter
- Sharing Thoughts, Ideas, Insights, Opinions
- Teaching Younger Children

Reading Path to Writing: Read Good Writing!

- Literature
- Non-Fiction Living Books
- Interesting Articles
- Great Works
- Poetry (Read Aloud)
- Speeches—Read Aloud
- Essays

Bad Writing

- Difficult to Read
- Confusing
- Fragments, Run-On’s
- Choppy, Random
- Poor Sentence Construction
- Not Focused, Disconnected
- Does Not Honor the Lord
- Does Not Reach Target Audience

Good Writing

- Easy to Read
- Message Clear & Concise
- Sentences Flow Smoothly
- Clear, Logical, Realistic
- Reaches Intended Audience
- Language and Style Easy to Understand
- Glorifies God
- Meets Audience’s Needs

Excellent Writing

Excellent writing is GOOD writing that....

- Challenges
- Inspires
- Equips, Informs & Exhorts the Audience to Action
- Excellent Writing Impacts Audience so that Lives are Changed
- Flows from a Servant's Heart

Enemies of Good Writing

- Poor Speaking Habits
- Hanging Out with People with Poor Speaking Habits
- Reading Twaddle
- Texting
- Email/Facebook
- Apathy for People

Basic Ingredients of Good Writing

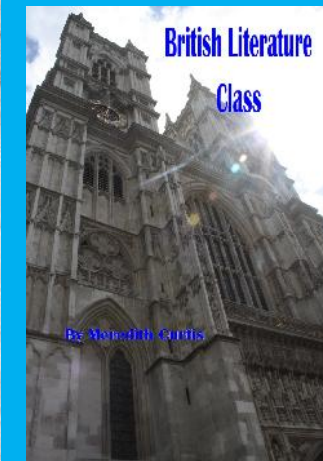
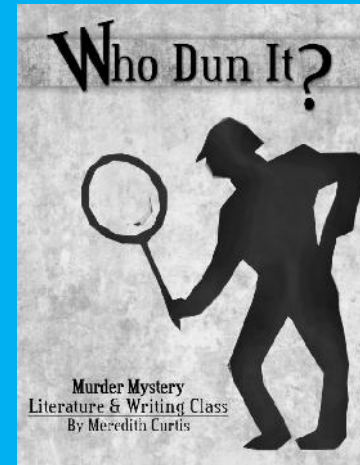
- Words/Ideas (Play with Words/Scattagories/Dictionary)
- Well-Crafted Sentence (Starts with capital letter, punctuation, complete thought, subject, action, clear, concise, gracious)
- Well-Crafted Paragraph (Indent, Same Topic, Sensible Order, Clear, Concise, Gracious,)

Steps to Writing Process

1. Research
2. Write
3. Edit
4. Craft
5. Publish

Where & What Do I Write?

- Teach Teens to Write a Wide Variety
- Expose Teens to All Kinds of Writing
- Create/Prepare Writing Classes
- Julianna Essay Class
- Who Dun It? Class
- Imitating Literature in British Literature



Writing in Science

- Essays
- Summaries from Textbooks and Lectures
- Conclusions from Experiments
- Blogging
- Outlines
- Note taking & Summarizing

Writing in Bible & Character Classes

- Summaries
- Essays
- Poetry, Prose, Prayers
- Songs, Song Lyrics
- Journaling

Writing in History, Economics, & Government

- Reports
- Book Reports
- Essays
- Summaries from Textbooks & Lectures
- Poetry, Limericks, Fables, Tall Tales
- Newspaper articles & interviews
- Short stories
- Speeches
- Outlines

Writing in Homemaking

- Book Reviews
- Essays
- Summaries
- Photo captions
- Journaling
- Letter Writing
- Business Letter Writing
- Stories & other Writing for Children

What Does a Writing Class Look Like?

- Examples of Writing You are Doing
- Essay
- Note-taking, Summary, Paraphrase, Research, Thesis, Research Paper
- Write Your Own Novel
- Poetry or Songwriting
- Blogging
- Remedial

Grammar

- MLA (OWL) Website
- Grammar Handbook
- Easy Grammar & Easy Writing by Wanda Phillips

Essays

- Read Essays Before Writing Essays (CS Lewis, GK Chesterton, Dorothy Sayers, Common Sense, Federalist Papers, Anti-Federalist Papers)
- Formal or Informal
- Personal, Reveals Personality/Thoughts/Feelings of Writer

Writing Resources

- Teaching Writing in High School with Classes You Can Use by Meredith Curtis; Powerline Productions
- Elements of Style by William Strunk, Jr. & E. B. White; Longman Publishing
- Rod & Staff English Handbook by Esther Neuenschwander; Rod & Staff Publishers
- A'Beka Handbook for Grammar & Composition by James A. Chapman; A'Beka Publications
- ***The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL)***
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

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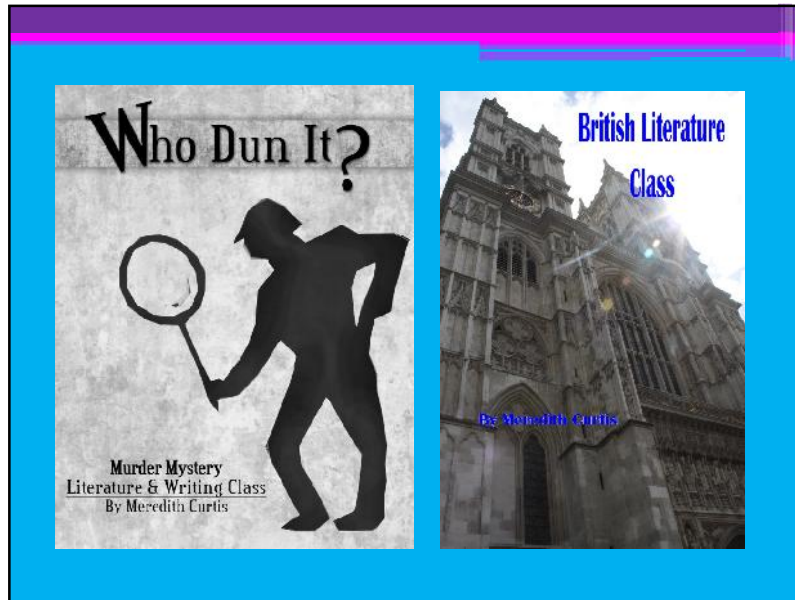
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Writing Curriculum

- Who Dun It: Murder Mystery Literature & Writing Class by Meredith Curtis
- British Literature by Meredith Curtis
- The Write Stuff Adventure by Dean Rea; Great Expectations Book Company
- Understanding Writing by Susan Bradrick; Family Discipleship Ministries
- Fairy Tale: Imitation in Writing by Matt Whitting; Logos Press (use for remedial in high school)
- Learn to Write the Novel Way by Carole Thaxton; Konos Connection
- One Year Adventure Novel kit by Daniel Schwabauer; Clear Water Press



Grammar Curriculum

- [Easy Writing](#) by Dr. Wanda Phillips; Easy Grammar Systems
- [Easy Grammar](#) by Dr. Wanda Phillips; Easy Grammar Systems

Find Me on The Web

- <http://www.meredithcurtis.com/>
- <http://jshomeschooling.com/> (Book lists)
- <http://finishwellcon.com/>
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- <http://www.curreclick.com/>
(Powerline Productions)

