

*"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." -Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Welcome to Senior Seminar! This summer we are going to show an abundance of enthusiasm toward sharpening our critical reading skills, as well as our college writing skills and vernacular. These competencies are going to help you succeed as you embark on your final year of high school and move forward into your first year as a college student.

This course has evolved during the years of Upward Bound, but our goals for this summer will be simple yet challenging:

- We are going to analyze and discuss various types of literature, including:
  - Short Stories
  - News Articles
  - Speeches
  - Essays
- We will understand the process of writing (outlining, drafting, conferencing, and revising) through workshops with peers and teachers.
- Everyone will craft at least one well-developed essay that is suitable for one of the 2015-2016 Common Application Essay Prompts. These essays can also be altered in order to apply to a scholarship.
- Reflect on our development as Upward Bound students during this summer and prior summers.

### **Reading/Class Participation**

Throughout this summer we will be reading a wide variety of informational and fictional texts. We will spend time analyzing and discussing different aspects and skills shown within each particular text.

### **Homework**

Homework provides students with the opportunity to practice the skills they have learned in class, outside of class, and on their own. Homework will be key to your success in Upward Bound. I can not stress enough the importance of staying on task with your homework schedule. Being prepared for class allows you to use your class time wisely.

### **College Essay**

Constructing a college essay is an important aspect of this class. We will be spending significant time working on an essay that you will feel comfortable submitting to college admission officers. We will work on brainstorming ideas, particular skills, editing and revising, and proofreading in order to achieve a final copy that will positively impact your college application.

### **Writing Workshops**

This summer we are going to take a unique approach to writing. We will be working toward finding our own voice by consulting with peers and me on strategies to help you discover your unique mode of communicating through writing. We will progress through mini-lessons and larger class discussions in order to reach our goals.

### **Grading**

Your grade will be based on the following categories:

Class Participation: 20%

College Essay: 35%

Homework: 15%

Workshops: 20%

Fishbowl Discussion: 10%

### **Schedule**

<b><u>Monday 6/20</u></b>	<b><u>Wednesday 6/22</u></b>	<b><u>Friday 6/24</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Welcome!</li><li>➤ Go over syllabus</li><li>➤ Write personal letter: What do I want to learn from this course?</li><li>➤ Discuss perceptions on reading and writing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Review Common Application essay prompts</li><li>➤ Brainstorm ideas for possible essays</li><li>➤ In class reading:</li><li>➤ Reader Response Log</li><li>➤ <b>HW:</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Journal Entry Due</b></li><li>➤ Discuss last night's reading</li><li>➤ View sample college essays: What worked and what did not?</li><li>➤ Show, don't tell</li><li>➤ <b>HW:</b></li></ul>

<p><b><u>Monday 6/27</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This upcoming week</li> <li>➤ Share college essay ideas with Louie or peer</li> <li>➤ Show, don't tell poetry activity</li> <li>➤ <b>HW:</b></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Wednesday 6/29</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Read short stories and discuss the use of adjectives to enhance</li> <li>➤ Introduce outlining a college essay</li> <li>➤ <b>HW:</b></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Friday 7/1</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Teacher/Peer edit your college essay outlines</li> <li>➤ Discuss importance of creating a hook</li> <li>➤ Work on final draft of college essay outline</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Monday 7/4</u></b></p> <p><b>Happy Fourth of July!</b></p>	<p><b><u>Wednesday 7/6</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Essay Outlines Due</b></li> <li>➤ Journal prompt: describe your weekend using only metaphors/similes</li> <li>➤ This upcoming week</li> <li>➤ Introduce vocab and vocab activity</li> <li>➤ <b>HW:</b></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Friday 7/8</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Watch and discuss TED Talk</li> <li>➤ Begin working on first draft of college essay</li> <li>➤ <b>HW:</b></li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Monday 7/11</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This upcoming week</li> <li>➤ Read and discuss informational text</li> <li>➤ Finish working on first draft of college essay</li> <li>➤ <b>HW:</b></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Wednesday 7/13</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>First Draft Due</b></li> <li>➤ Peer edit and workshop first draft of college essay</li> <li>➤ Poetry/Vocab activity</li> <li>➤ <b>HW:</b></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Friday 7/15</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Poetry/Vocab Due</b></li> <li>➤ Q.O.D.: When was a time that you had to be a leader?</li> <li>➤ TED Talk and discussion</li> <li>➤ Begin second draft of college essay</li> </ul>

<p><b><u>Monday 7/18</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This upcoming week</li> <li>➤ Weekend update in 60 seconds</li> <li>➤ Introduce fishbowl discussion</li> <li>➤ Assign roles for fishbowl</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Wednesday 7/20</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Second Draft Due</b></li> <li>➤ Workshop second draft of essay with peer or Louie</li> <li>➤ Read informational text: News Article</li> <li>➤ <b>HW: Prepare questions for fishbowl</b></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Friday 7/22</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Q.O.D.: Favorite memory at Upward Bound?</li> <li>➤ Fishbowl discussion</li> <li>➤ Reflect on fishbowl discussion</li> <li>➤ <b>HW: Final Draft of Essay Due Monday</b></li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Monday 7/25</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Final Draft Due</b></li> <li>➤ Open discussion on essays</li> <li>➤</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Wednesday 7/27</u></b></p> <p><b>Final Day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Open and read personal letters</li> <li>➤ Celebration and final goodbyes</li> </ul>	