STUDYWALKS · COURSE SYLLABUS

College Composition — High School Course with CLEP Preparation

College Composition teaches what a first-year writing course covers: correct sentences, revision, using sources honestly, and reading how texts persuade.

CREDIT LABEL	HOURS GOAL	STUDYWALKS LEARNING HOURS	SUGGESTED OFFLINE HOURS
1.0 credit	**120 h**	**29 h**	**91 h**
high school, with the study plan	the 1.0-credit convention	measured runtime plus assessment time	reading, review and writing

29 h StudyWalks (6.2 h of lessons, 12.6 h of lectures, 10.2 h of quizzes and exams) + **91 h** suggested offline study = **120 h**. 575 lessons in 31 units; prepares for the CLEP College Composition Modular exam.

High school credit is granted by the homeschool parent under the state's rules. StudyWalks supplies the record: hours, scores and this syllabus. The credit label is a suggestion; the parent makes the final call.

Course contents

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
1	**Writing for a Purpose** The course and the rhetorical situation · Purpose, audience, context and genre · Reading, conversation and varieties of English · The writing process and a prompt	16	23 min
2	**Sentences: Parts and Patterns** The parts of a sentence · Clauses and the words that join them · The four sentence structures · Diagnosing and choosing	20	24 min
3	**Sentence Boundaries** Fragments · Comma splices and run-ons · Checking a paragraph · Two worked examples	16	24 min
4	**Verbs** Verb forms · Subject-verb agreement · Tense · Mood, voice and two repairs	22	26 min
5	**Pronouns** Reference · Agreement · Case · Point of view and repairs	18	22 min
6	**Modifiers, Parallelism and Mixed Constructions** Modifiers · Parallel structure · Mixed constructions · Repairs and a worked example	18	24 min
7	**Commas** The main comma rules · Essential and nonessential · Transitions, quotations and dates · Unnecessary commas and revision	20	24 min
8	**Other Punctuation** Semicolons and colons · Apostrophes · Quotation marks · Dashes, parentheses and the rest	19	21 min

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
9	**Mechanics** Capital letters · Titles of works · Proofreading and formatting	10	15 min
10	**Words** Diction and register · Concrete words · Commonly confused words · Inclusive language and revising	20	23 min
11	**Clear and Effective Sentences** Doers and actions · Conciseness · Emphasis and variety · Combining and revising	22	27 min
12	**Revision as a Process** What revision is · Purpose, audience and structure · Feedback and rubrics · Revising in order	18	23 min
13	**Thesis Statements** What a thesis is · Working thesis · Placement and common problems · Testing and matching	18	24 min
14	**Paragraphs** Main point and unity · Developing a point · Length, placement and structure · Placing, deleting and revising	20	28 min
15	**Organization and Reasoning Patterns** Orders for a reader · Patterns of reasoning · Signals and purpose · Outlining and reordering	20	28 min
16	**Coherence and Transitions** Coherence · Transition families · Linking sentences, paragraphs and sections · Repairing coherence	18	23 min
17	**Evidence and Support** Claims and kinds of evidence · Testing evidence · Analysis and counterevidence · Choosing and adding evidence	18	24 min
18	**Audience, Tone and Point of View in Revision** Revising for the reader · Tone · Point of view · Respect, register and a worked example	18	22 min
19	**Openings and Closings** Introductions · Conclusions and titles · Revising openings and closings	14	20 min
20	**Revising a Whole Passage** Reading as a reviser · Adding, deleting, moving, combining · Choosing the best version · Practice drafts and traps	18	32 min
21	**Research and Sources** Questions · Kinds of sources · Searching · Field research and records	18	21 min
22	**Evaluating Sources** Five criteria · Reading critically · Facts, comparisons and annotations	18	23 min
23	**Integrating Sources** Quotation and paraphrase · Summary and signal phrases · Embedding and explaining quotations · Synthesis and voice	22	27 min
24	**Plagiarism and Documentation** What plagiarism is · Why cite and which style · What a citation needs · Ethics, tracking and judging cases	16	20 min
25	**MLA Style** The MLA system · In-text citations · The works-cited list · Format, quotations and building entries	20	27 min

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
26	**APA Style** Author-date citations · The references list · Titles, DOIs and format · Building and comparing	20	27 min
27	**Chicago Style** Chicago's systems · Notes · The bibliography and three sources · Three styles and a worked example	16	22 min
28	**Rhetorical Appeals** What analysis does · The appeals · Audience, purpose and effect · Writing the analysis	20	28 min
29	**Language, Tone and Structure** Devices and figurative language · Tone · Structure and style · What a text says and how	22	26 min
30	**Reasoning and Fallacies** Reasoning · Common fallacies · More fallacies and propaganda · Naming, judging and checking	22	26 min
31	**Analyzing Arguments and Evidence** Claims · Evidence and assumptions · Purpose, audience, function and inference · Comparing, synthesizing and practice	18	32 min

Assessment and grading

- **Unit quizzes.** 31 quizzes, 10 questions each, checked as the student goes, each answer with the lesson to review. Untimed; retakes are unlimited.
- **Mid exam.** 50 questions on units 1–16, drawn fresh each time and scored at the end with a breakdown by content area. Untimed; retakes are unlimited.
- **Final exam.** 90 questions, 95 minutes, on the whole course. Scored 20–80; 50 passes (60 of 90 correct, about 67%). Retakes are unlimited with a 24-hour wait, each a fresh draw.

Suggested composite grade

Part	Weight
Unit quizzes (average of best scores)	20%
Mid exam (best score)	20%
Final exam (percent correct)	60%

Suggested letter scale

Letter	Composite
A	90–100
B	80–89
C	70–79
D	60–69
F	below 60

Suggested; the parent sets the grade. A passing final is the completion standard for the course record.

Study plan

The 91 offline hours are spread over the units in proportion to each unit's StudyWalks time. For each unit: read the matching sections of *Writing Guide with Handbook (OpenStax); Excelsior University Online Writing Lab*, review the unit quiz misses, and write a one-page unit summary. Log the time as you go.

Unit	Title	StudyWalks	Offline, suggested	Unit total
1	Writing for a Purpose	33 min	2 h 40 min	3 h 13 min
2	Sentences: Parts and Patterns	37 min	3 h	3 h 37 min
3	Sentence Boundaries	35 min	2 h 50 min	3 h 25 min
4	Verbs	40 min	3 h 15 min	3 h 55 min
5	Pronouns	34 min	2 h 45 min	3 h 19 min
6	Modifiers, Parallelism and Mixed Constructions	36 min	2 h 55 min	3 h 31 min
7	Commas	37 min	3 h	3 h 37 min
8	Other Punctuation	34 min	2 h 45 min	3 h 19 min
9	Mechanics	22 min	1 h 45 min	2 h 7 min
10	Words	36 min	2 h 55 min	3 h 31 min
11	Clear and Effective Sentences	41 min	3 h 20 min	4 h 1 min
12	Revision as a Process	35 min	2 h 50 min	3 h 25 min
13	Thesis Statements	35 min	2 h 50 min	3 h 25 min
14	Paragraphs	41 min	3 h 15 min	3 h 56 min
15	Organization and Reasoning Patterns	41 min	3 h 15 min	3 h 56 min
16	Coherence and Transitions	34 min	2 h 45 min	3 h 19 min
17	Evidence and Support	35 min	2 h 50 min	3 h 25 min
18	Audience, Tone and Point of View in Revision	34 min	2 h 45 min	3 h 19 min
19	Openings and Closings	29 min	2 h 20 min	2 h 49 min
20	Revising a Whole Passage	44 min	3 h 30 min	4 h 14 min
21	Research and Sources	33 min	2 h 40 min	3 h 13 min
22	Evaluating Sources	34 min	2 h 45 min	3 h 19 min
23	Integrating Sources	41 min	3 h 15 min	3 h 56 min
24	Plagiarism and Documentation	30 min	2 h 25 min	2 h 55 min
25	MLA Style	40 min	3 h 15 min	3 h 55 min
26	APA Style	40 min	3 h 15 min	3 h 55 min
27	Chicago Style	33 min	2 h 40 min	3 h 13 min
28	Rhetorical Appeals	41 min	3 h 15 min	3 h 56 min
29	Language, Tone and Structure	40 min	3 h 15 min	3 h 55 min
30	Reasoning and Fallacies	40 min	3 h 15 min	3 h 55 min
Lessons and lectures		**18 h 49 min**	**91 h**	**109 h 49 min**
Quizzes, mid exam and final (stated time)		**10 h 12 min**	**—**	**10 h 12 min**

Unit	Title	StudyWalks	Offline, suggested	Unit total
31	Analyzing Arguments and Evidence	44 min	3 h 30 min	4 h 14 min
Lessons and lectures		**18 h 49 min**	**91 h**	**109 h 49 min**
Quizzes, mid exam and final (stated time)		**10 h 12 min**	**—**	**10 h 12 min**

Unit times are the unit's lecture runtime plus its lessons at the course's measured average lesson length; totals can differ from the learning hours by rounding.

Sources

- **Anchor:** OpenStax, Rice University. *Writing Guide with Handbook*. CC BY-NC-SA 4.0
- **Witness:** Excelsior University Online Writing Lab (Excelsior OWL): grammar, writing process, research, citation (MLA, APA, Chicago) and argument pages. CC BY-NC 4.0

StudyWalks finals are modeled on the CLEP exam blueprint in scope, format, and rigor. Scores are StudyWalks scores, not CLEP scores, and are not affiliated with or recognized by the College Board. This final has no essay section.

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