

## YWW Academic Program Overview

YWW Academic provides students with structure, accountability, and guided exercises that help them grow as a writer and receive one high-school creative writing credit for homeschool students.<sup>1</sup> It consists of a 9-month course during the school year plus a 3-month summer program.

Students enrolled in YWW Academic receive the following benefits in addition to everything provided in YWW Standard:

- A personal TA that will help to keep them accountable for the course work.
- A course that rearranges our large instructional video library into a linear sequence students can take that teaches them the core tenets of creative writing.
- Multiple-choice quizzes that assess student understanding of the material.
- Guided exercises and activities that help students apply the content that they're learning to the work-in-progress.
- A path for homeschoolers to get a high-school creative writing credit for their activities in YWW and their personal writing.

YWW Academic is run as a pass/fail course, so we don't assign grades for student work. Creative writing assignments are famously difficult to assign objective grades to in traditional schools, and we want to enable student choice within the program for what they write. Whether that's writing a novel, running a blog, crafting short stories, etc., we want students to write what they're passionate for instead of assigning specific assignments. As a result, the family/student picks the writing topics, and we simply help students follow through on writing regularly each week.

To receive feedback on their writing, students are encouraged and required to connect with other students on our virtual community and exchange writing with each other for peer feedback. Because of the number of students within the program, instructors/TAs don't give direct feedback on the student's work except for a few activities.

Students can expect to spend 45-60 minutes a day on work for this program.

Feel free to email the program director, Josiah DeGraaf, at [josiah@theyoungwriter.com](mailto:josiah@theyoungwriter.com) if you have any other questions about the program.

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<sup>1</sup> There are a few private/online schools that may accept this for credit, but this will vary between schools and most will not due to the self-paced component. Please email our program director ([josiah@theyoungwriter.com](mailto:josiah@theyoungwriter.com)) if you have questions about getting this for credit with a traditional or online school.

## **YWW Academic Calendar | 2020-2021**

### **Module One: Building Core Writing Habits | August 23 - October 3**

In this module, students will learn why it's important to start writing while young, how to build a consistent writing habit, and how to involve their parents in their writing. The module will end with an activity that helps students understand what environments work best for them personally to write.

### **Module Two: Building Your Core Community | October 4 - December 12**

In this module, students will learn why great writers don't rely on themselves and work on putting together a team of writers around them that will help them grow as a writer. Non-fiction writers will be encouraged to start a private or public blog in order to build their consistency as a writer. The module will end with an activity where students find and reach out to a more experienced writer to mentor them in their journey as a writer.

### **Module Three: Studying the Craft | January 3 - March 20**

In this module, students will study the craft of writing, including outlining, suspense, character development, and editing for fiction writers, and blogging, plagiarism, and editing for non-fiction writers. The module will end with an activity where students write and submit a short story or article to a larger publication or website.

### **Module Four: Thinking Through Future Steps | March 28 - May 8**

In this module, students will explore what it looks like to have a career as a writer and how the publishing industry works. They will also be encouraged to reflect on how writing fits into their larger vocation in life. This module will end with an activity where students put together a plan for how they want to continue to grow as a writer moving forward.

### **Summer Module: Honing Your Personal Style | May 23 - August 14**

In this module, students will learn how to imitate other writers and use that experience to hone their personal writing style. This is a less intense module than the other modules to give students more room to breathe during the summer.