# Unit 8- Existential Writing

Content Area: **Language Arts Literacy**
Course(s): **English 12 Honors**
Time Period: **Marking Period 4**
Length: **10 Blocks**
Status: **Published**

## Course Description

Credits: 5

Prerequisite: 85 in English 11 Honors OR 91 in English 11 CP with teacher recommendation

Grade: 12

This course is designed for the student who has developed an exceptional proficiency in critical reading and thinking as well as advanced writing skills. Students are challenged with numerous fictional literary readings from several genres and related non-fiction. In addition, students complete many writing assignments and extensive outside readings. Students explore the modes of writing on a more sophisticated level; journal writing will address students' creative talents while other assignments will be analytical in nature. Students use MLA and The BIG6 information literacy model to conduct problem-based research projects.

## Unit Description

**Stage 1-- Desired Results**

**Unit Purpose:** In this unit students will create a personal memoir based on art that has influenced them personally. In 11-12th grade, teachers will teach the same standards from 9th and 10th grade but will increase the rigor. 11th grade teachers will teach the skills based on the explicit standards. 12th grade teachers refresh/review those same skills from the year prior to check for complete understanding.

**Established Goals:**

New Jersey Student Learning Standards: English Language Arts Grades 11 and 12

**Explicit:**

W.11-12.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

1. Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new

element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

2. Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.

3. Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.

4. Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.

5. Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g. formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing. F. Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the argument presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic)

W.11-12.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

1. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.

2. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

3. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).

4. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.

5. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.

W.11-12.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)

W.11-12.5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.

W.11-12.6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

W.11-12.10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes.

**Implicit:**

L.11-12.1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

1. Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contested.

L.11-12.2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

1. Observe hyphenation conventions.
2. Spell correctly.

L.11-12.3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

1. Vary syntax for effect, apply an understanding of syntax to the study of complex texts.

L.11-12.4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 11–12 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

1. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
2. Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., conceive, conception, conceivable).
3. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, its etymology, or its standard usage.
4. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking

the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

L.11-12.5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

1. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text.

2. Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.

L.11-12.6. Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

**Understandings:**

**Students will understand that…**

-Memoirists reflect on their own lives.
-Memorists reflect and revise their own drafts to truly tell the experience they are sharing.
-Memorists study strategies to heighten their level or writing.
-Memoirs are meant to show readers all of an author's emotions.

**Students will know…**

-How to  experiment with ideas and literary devices including figurative language.
-Many ways to draft, reflect, revise, edit and conference.
-How to avoid writer's block.

**Essential Questions:**

-How can a writer not only tell a good story, but also hope to relate to readers?
-What is the meaning of a memoir?
-What literary devices do memoirists use to support their claims and story the are trying to tell?
-How can a writer use personal "snapshots" to help or influence readers?

**Students will be able to…**

-Write to show an event that had meaning in their lives.
-Determine how to retell that event.
-Explore their writer's notebook and choose a topic.
-Revise details, word choice, and literary devices.
-Edit with peers.

**Stage 2 -- Assessment Evidence**

**Summative Assessments:**

Writing On Demand Skills Assessment

Art Influencer Essay

**Formative Assessments:**

Quizzes  (3 "Minor" Assessments)- Demonstration of explicitly-taught skills through quizzes

Writer's Notebook (5 "Homework" student-selected entries) - Five entries over the course of the unit in which reading skills are explored.

## Stage 3 -- Learning Plan

**Learning Activities:**

-Introduce the standards, essential questions, assessment evidence and corresponding rubrics, and calendar of lessons to students.
-Execute standards-based mini-lessons to develop skills and strategies.
-Collaborate with assigned partners.
-Experience activities where speaking and listening skills are used.
-Confer individually with teacher and peers.

### Mini-Lessons

-1 & Multiple POVs
-Narrator vs. Characters
-Dialogue (stream of consciousness, experimental)
-Pacing
-Sequencing impact on tone
-Sophisticated techniques and figurative language (metaphor, apostrophe, senses)
-Reflection

### Resources

All student selected choices available through classroom library, school or public library, or bought buy student.

**Works of Study:**

Excerpts from *The Essential Calvin and Hobbes*

*Pan's Labyrinth*

Excerpt from *31 Songs* by Nick Hornby

**Potential Works of Study:**

*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*

*Lars and the Real Girl*

**Online Resources:**

Calvinandhobbes.com

**SAT Connection:**

*The Official SAT Study Guide*

*Chapter 6 Command of Evidence*

*Chapter 7 Words in Context*

*Chapter 8 About SAT Reading Test*

*Chapter 9 Reading: Information and Ideas*

*Chapter 10  Reading Rhetoric*

*Chapter 11: Reading Synthesis*

*Chapter 12: Sample Reading Test Questions*

**Vocabulary:**

Lit-based vocabulary

*Students self-select vocabulary words, consulting narrative mentor texts and personal vocabulary entries in Reader's Notebook.

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

**Accommodations and Modifications:**

**Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners,**

**Students at Risk of Failure, Students with 504s, Gifted & Talented Students**

Strategies and Practices that Support Students with Disabilities:

- Use of visual and multisensory formats
- Use of assisted technology
- Use of prompts
- Modification of content and student products
- Testing accommodations
- Authentic assessments
- Small group/One to one
- Additional time
- Review of directions
- Student restates information
- Space for movement or breaks
- Extra visual and verbal cues and prompts
- Preferential seating
- Follow a routine/schedule
- Rest breaks
- Verbal and visual cues regarding directions and staying on task
- Checklists
- Immediate feedback

Strategies and Practices that Support Gifted & Talented Students:

- Adjusting the pace of lessons

- Curriculum compacting
- Inquiry-based instruction
- Independent study
- Higher-order thinking skills
- Interest-based content
- Student-driven instruction
- Real-world problems and scenarios
- Problem-based learning
- Interest-based research
- Authentic problem-solving

Strategies and Practices that Support English Language Learners:

- Pre-teaching of vocabulary and concepts
- Personal vocabulary
- Text-to-speech
- Simplified instructions
- Visual learning, including graphic organizers
- Use of cognates to increase comprehension
- Teacher modeling
- Pairing students with beginning English language skills with students who have more advanced English language skills
- Scaffolding
- Word walls
- Sentence frames
- Think-pair-share
- Cooperative learning groups

Strategies and Practices that Support At-Risk Students:

- Guided notes and/or scaffold outline for written assignments
- Guided reading
- Introduce key vocabulary before the lesson
- Work in a small group
- The lesson taught again using a differentiated approach
- Allow answers to be given orally or dictated
- Use visuals / Anchor Charts
- Leveled texts according to ability
- Choice Boards
- Literature circles
- Project-based learning
- Graphic organizers
- Choice books
- Mini-Workshops  to reteach or extend
- Jigsaw
- Goal-setting with students
- Use of a reading buddy
- Exploration based on interest

Strategies and Practices that Support Students with 504 Plans:

- Follow all the 504 plan modifications
- Text-to-speech/audio-recorded selections
- Amplification system as needed
- Leveled texts according to ability
- Fine motor skill stations embedded in rotation as needed
- Modified or constrained spelling word lists

- Provide anchor charts with high-frequency words and phonemic patterns

## Standards

**Explicit:**

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2. Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.

3. Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.

4. Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.

5. Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g. formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing. F. Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the argument presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic)

W.11-12.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

1. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.

2. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

3. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).

4. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.

5. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.

W.11-12.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)

W.11-12.5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.

W.11-12.6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

W.11-12.10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes.

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L.11-12.4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 11–12 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

1. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

2. Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., conceive, conception, conceivable).

3. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, its etymology, or its standard usage.

4. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

L.11-12.5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

1. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text.

2. Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.

L.11-12.6. Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

## Anchor Standards

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| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R1 | Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences and relevant connections from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R2 | Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R3 | Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R4 | Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R5 | Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R6 | Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R7 | Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R8 | Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence. |

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| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R9 | Analyze and reflect on how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R10 | Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently with scaffolding as needed. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W1 | Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W2 | Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W3 | Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W4 | Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W5 | Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W6 | Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W7 | Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects, utilizing an inquiry-based research process, based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W8 | Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W9 | Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. |
| LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W10 | Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. |

## Interdisciplinary Standards

WHST.11-12.2. Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes.

A. Introduce a topic and organize ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aid comprehension.

B. Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.

C. Use varied transitions and sentence structures to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.

D. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic and convey a style appropriate to the discipline and context as well as to the expertise of likely readers.

E. Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g. formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.

F. Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the argument presented.

WHST.11-12.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

WHST.11-12.5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.

WHST.11-12.6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.

## Holocaust & Amistad Connections

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| SOC.6.1.12.A.3.h | Examine multiple perspectives on slavery and evaluate the claims used to justify the arguments. |
| SOC.6.1.12.A.3.i | Examine the origins of the antislavery movement and the impact of particular events, such as the Amistad decision, on the movement. |
| SOC.6.1.12.A.5.b | Analyze the effectiveness of governmental policies and of actions by groups and individuals to address discrimination against new immigrants, Native Americans, and African Americans. |
| SOC.6.1.12.A.11.e | Assess the responses of the United States and other nations to the violation of human rights that occurred during the Holocaust and other genocides. |
| SOC.6.1.12.D.5.d | Relate varying immigrants' experiences to gender, race, ethnicity, or occupation. |
| SOC.6.3.12.D.1 | Analyze the impact of current governmental practices and laws affecting national security and/or individual civil rights/privacy. |

## Career Readiness, Life Literacies, & Key Skills (CLKS):

9.4.12.CI.1: Demonstrate the ability to reflect, analyze, and use creative skills and ideas

9.4.12.CT.2: Explain the potential benefits of collaborating to enhance critical thinking and problem solving

9.4.12.CT.4: Participate in online strategy and planning sessions for course-based, school-based, or other projects and determine the strategies that contribute to effective outcomes.

9.4.12.IML.2: Evaluate digital sources for timeliness, accuracy, perspective, credibility of the source, and relevance of information, in media, data, or other resources.

## Computer Science & Design Thinking (CS & DT):

8.1.8.E.1 - Effectively use a variety of search tools and filters in professional public databases to find information to solve a real world problem.

8.1.8.D.4 - Assess the credibility and accuracy of digital content

## LGBTQ & Persons With Disabilities

Writing assignments can include these prompts:

In order to live your life freely? What does the existentialist philosophy say about this idea? Is the existentialist way the right way?

**Persons with Disabilities**

Journal Prompts: Interacting with People with Disabilities

What makes you uncomfortable when interacting with someone with a disability? How can you apply existential thought and ideas to make yourself more comfortable?

Does having a disability "damage" someone? What do existentialists say about this? What's a disability you have? How can existential thought help you overcome this shortcoming you have about yourself?

**LGBTQ**

What makes you uncomfortable when interacting with someone from the LGBTQ+ community? How can you apply existential thought and ideas to make yourself more comfortable?
The term "coming out" is often applied to those who are "in the closet" or "hiding" their sexuality, but can apply to any life-altering secret someone harbors. What's the best way to reveal the most important secret about yourself that you must share with others