



# PIONEERS Co-Op

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## Overview of Ready, Set, Write! (Grade 8/9)

**Tutor:** Mrs. Kerry Zawadzki  
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### Required Texts:

- **Writing and Rhetoric Book 5 Refutation and Confirmation – Student Edition**, by Paul Kortepeter, Classical Academic Press
- **Writing and Rhetoric Book 6 Commonplace – Student Edition**, by Paul Kortepeter, Classical Academic Press

**Additional Resources:** Tutor will be providing Grammar, Sentence Diagramming, and Vocabulary examples and work online through the class's Microsoft Teams class notebook. Tutor will make copies for handouts as needed.

**Class Description:** This course is designed to teach children to gather information, sort it and express it in appropriate ways. They will learn how to think and write through a series of persuasive essays. A new skill will be taught each week to help students overcome the three main writing challenges: coming up with ideas, putting your ideas in order, and expressing ideas appropriately. Each essay will be completed in class and at home during a 3–4-week time frame. Additionally, sentence diagramming will be taught to improve sentence structure as a warm-up at the beginning of each class.

### Topics Included in Course:

- Write four to six paragraph essays
- Annotate, Summarize, and Outline Fiction and Non-Fiction Reading Selections
- Refute (argue against) or confirm (argue for) parts of stories and vices/virtues shown in those stories.
- Understand comparison and contrast
- Introduce and conclude an essay
- Use narrative to further the purpose of exposition
- Use direct quotes to support an argument
- Deliver writing orally
- Use of grammar and diagramming to develop correct and varied sentence structure in writing
- Develop an expansive vocabulary to better understand reading assignments and to express oneself in academic writing

There is a student-lead reading component to this course. Students will be asked to read 2-4 books of their choosing (with some guidelines) throughout the year to be used with their writing assignments.

### Supplies:

- Large, 3-ring binder with dividers and loose leaf paper
- Pens (blue or black AND red ink)
- Access to a dictionary and thesaurus and computer

**Student Evaluation:** Students will receive a percentage grade each semester based upon the following:

Essays: 50%  
Assignments: 30%  
Participation: 20%

Grading Scale	
90-100%	=A
80-89%	=B
70-79%	=C
60-69%	=D