



Pretest for *The Writer's Journey, Volume 1*

Read each statement below carefully. Please answer honestly so you can determine whether or not you should take this course. If you have never practiced this knowledge or skill before, please rate with a "1."

If you answer 80% or more of the questions with a 3 or 4, you probably do not need to take this course.

Rate each of the statements below using the following scale:

1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree.

1. I have written a sensory description before using multiple sensory perspectives, power verbs, and sensory details.
2. I can harness all these details to create a dominant impression.
3. I can articulate the differences between objective and impressionistic description.
4. I know how to choose precise diction using both denotation and connotation.
5. I know how to use figurative language strategies in descriptive writing, such as simile, metaphor, personification, and hyperbole.
6. I can describe the differences among these stages of the writing process: prewriting, mapping a draft, writing a draft, revising a draft, and editing a draft.
7. I can prewrite using a web, a list or outline, or a free write.
8. I have written a comparison essay.
9. I have written a definition essay.
10. I have written a how-to guide.
11. I know how to identify significant particulars, or supporting details, and include them in an essay.
12. I know how to identify topical subgroups and write a clear, summative topic sentence.
13. I know how to write a substantive answer to a reading question using a topic sentence, context for a quotation or paraphrase, a supporting detail, and commentary.
14. I know how to write a clear, summative thesis statement that includes all topical subgroups represented by my essay.



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15. I know how to use two or more of the following forms of essay organization:
 - a. spatial organization;
 - b. chronological organization;
 - c. general-to-specific organization;
 - d. comparative organization (block method, alternating method, or compare then contrast method); and/or
 - e. least-to-most or most-to-least organization.
16. I have written a letter.
17. I have written a dialectical (double-entry) journal about literature or nonfiction.
18. I have written a personal journal about literature or nonfiction.
19. I have written a poem.
20. I have written an essay or fictional piece with a purpose to address a particular audience.
21. I know how to include both concrete and abstract description when I write.
22. I know how to develop and enhance my writer's voice.
23. I have developed factual, analytical, and evaluative questions about literature and nonfiction.
24. I have written an autobiographical incident essay.
25. I have written an allegory.
26. I have written a dialogue.
27. I have written a short story.
28. I know how to shape protagonists, antagonists, and foils within the cast of characters in my fiction.
29. I know the differences between first-person and third-person narration when developing a point of view.
30. I know how to develop plot using conflict, flashback, foreshadowing, and irony.
31. I can develop a theme in fiction using setting, image, symbol, and archetype.
32. I can identify any of these literary terms at work in a work of fiction or nonfiction.
33. I know how to edit my final draft to avoid fragments, comma errors, semicolon errors, colon errors, and to increase sentence variety.



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34. I have read works by ten or more of the following authors: Mortimer Adler, Elizabeth Bishop, Gwendolyn Brooks, Albert Camus, Sandra Cisneros, Emily Dickinson, Annie Dillard, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Anne Frank, Lorraine Hansberry, Langston Hughes, Garrison Keillor, Jamaica Kincaid, Maxine Hong Kingston, Shirley Jackson, Suzanne Britt Jordan, Harper Lee, Lady Whortley Montagu, George Orwell, Plato, Elvis Presley, Jackie Robinson, Theodore Roethke, Roger Rosenblatt, William Shakespeare, Gary Soto, Amy Tan, and/or Judith Viorst.
35. I know options for publishing my work to audiences that will appreciate my work.