

Back-to-Basics
WRITING
BOOT CAMP
with Karen Otto

Two sections -
Each limited to 15 incoming freshmen

9am - 12pm:
June 22 - 25 or
July 27 - 30

Carroll Middle School (room # to be announced)



JUMP START YOUR FRESHMAN'S WRITING SKILLS THIS SUMMER.

Many incoming freshmen find the transition from middle school to high school overwhelming. Some students struggle with meeting the demands of writing for high-stakes tests, such as the SAT and ACT, and the different modes of high school writing.

Freshman English at Carroll High School builds upon the 8th grade language arts curriculum by increasing the rigor and expectations. High school students are expected to read and respond to difficult texts by writing essays and short answer responses. In these written assessments, students must provide insightful commentary, show their stylistic maturity with concise and elevated word choice, and organize their ideas in a logical and sophisticated manner. A strong foundation of writing skill is imperative for success and achievement in high school and beyond. This Writing Boot Camp will enhance and build upon your freshman's current writing ability.

THIS ISN'T YOUR AVERAGE WRITING 101 COURSE.

It's called a Boot Camp for a reason! This is high intensity strength training in writing basics. And it's the ONLY course like it in Southlake. As a way to prepare incoming freshman for the rigors of high school writing, this summer Writing Boot Camp is based on the writing principles that have proven to be effective for decades.

Your child will build writing muscle by learning how to:

- ★ Brainstorm and organize ideas in a consistent and proven manner;
- ★ Craft thesis and topic statements;
- ★ Select and smoothly integrate textual support;
- ★ Move beyond surface understanding and literal interpretation to insightful, original thinking;
- ★ Use creative writing skills when writing more academic style essays required in high school;
- ★ Revise for content and say more with less in order to produce original written responses;
- ★ Write with stylistic maturity using effective command of sentence structures and diction.

Students will be guided through the foundational elements of the writing process so that they understand the steps and techniques of effective writing. Students will participate in mini-lessons on specific content and editing strategies.

Models of effective writing will be shown, discussed, and imitated. Time for drafting and revising, peer response, and teacher conferencing will also be incorporated in every session. Writing Boot Camp will encourage young writers to discover their own style, voice, and potential, ultimately, helping students grow and build self confidence in their writing abilities.

ABOUT KAREN OTTO

As the English department chair at Carroll High School, Karen is familiar with the rigors and expectations of the English courses in Carroll ISD. Her experience in the classroom (fifteen years and counting), MA in English, and extensive knowledge of the writing process have taught her that all students can write if they are just given the tools to do so. In Karen's presentations at state-level conferences and as a consultant for districts in the DFW, San Antonio, and Waco areas, she has helped other teachers learn how to successfully improve their students' writing.

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STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM

Student Name:

Address:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian eMail:

Parent/Guardian Contact Phone Number:

CHOOSE A SECTION:

- June 22 - 25 9 am - 12 pm Limited to 15 incoming freshmen. Tuition: \$ 395
- July 27 - 30 9 am - 12 pm Limited to 15 incoming freshmen. Tuition: \$ 395

Registration closes on May 13th.

Due to the personalized instruction of the Writing Boot Camp, there are a limited number of seats, which are expected to fill quickly. An additional date and time slot may be offered if the demand warrants.

Contact Info:

Karen Otto at mrskarenotto@gmail.com or 817-217-8487

EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT

If you register before April 22, the cost of the Back-to-Basics Writing Boot Camp is \$ 350.
Registration cost after this date is \$ 395.
Registration closes on May 13, 2015.

PAYMENT

Mail completed Student Registration Form with check or money order made out to "Karen Otto":

Karen Otto
309 Brasher Lane
Eules, TX 76040

CANCELLATION POLICY

No refunds will be given past May 13, 2015.

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TESTIMONIALS FROM STUDENTS

"Because of Mrs. Otto's help, I have been able to significantly improve my writing."

- Carroll Middle School Student (8th grader)

"Mrs. Otto has helped me so much! I am now able to write with more confidence than ever before."

- Carroll High School Student (Sophomore)

"You've truly had a phenomenal impact on me and my education. The amount of just... THINGS I learned (I know, things is very general, but words cannot even begin to describe the various lessons I took from your class) that I continue to use and hold onto outmatches that of any other class."

- Former Carroll High School Student (Penn State Freshman)

TESTIMONIALS FROM PARENTS

"My daughter scored a 780 in Writing on her SAT test, and that is thanks to Mrs. Otto! My daughter didn't miss a single multiple choice question, and that was due to Mrs. Otto's efforts last year."

- Parent of Carroll Senior High (Junior)

"Mrs. Otto has the 'it' factor every parent wants in a teacher. She engages the kids at their level, makes them want to work hard for her, and motivates them with her sense of humor and encouragement, all the while teaching them what they need to know and more. My son's writing ability and confidence have improved dramatically after working with Mrs. Otto."

- Parent of Carroll Middle School Student (8th grader)

"I give Mrs. Otto full credit for being such an amazing teacher that she has taken my son, who avoids reading and writing, and in some magical way made that child into one who tells me that English is his favorite class. I attribute this to her skill at teaching and her ability to transfer some of her love and excitement for reading and writing to her students."

- Parent of Carroll High School Student (Sophomore)

"After reading the short story my son wrote with Mrs. Otto's guidance and feedback, I was blown away. It is a cut above any work that I ever did, including in college. It is so satisfying to see your children excel, and I wanted to thank Mrs. Otto for providing him the challenge and support he needed to grow. He's a great kid and works hard, so he definitely earns the grades, but I am also quite confident in saying that he could not have achieved this level of writing without the environment and guidance that Mrs. Otto has provided him."

- Parent of Carroll High School Student (Sophomore)

"I spoke with [my son] this week as he was going into an intense period of exams and papers. He got A's on all of his papers, and one professor actually read his introduction to the class. When I asked who could take credit for his successes, he said, 'Otto all the way!!!'"

- Parent of Former Carroll High School Student (University of Notre Dame Sophomore)

"In a district like ours that has had a long history of high student performance on assessments, it would be easy for a teacher and a leader to rest on these laurels and enjoy past successes. This is not the path Karen Otto has chosen to take. She recognizes the potential our students have, and she works relentlessly to push them, scaffold their learning, and see to it that they rise to the high expectations she sets."

- Carroll ISD Language Arts Curriculum Director
