Course Title:
Essentials of Writing I: Effective Sentences and Paragraphs

Catalog Description:
Essentials of Writing I: Effective Sentences and Paragraphs introduces students to the essentials of the English language: parts of speech, phrases, clauses, types of sentences, common sentence errors, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. Students write sentences and paragraphs to demonstrate an understanding of contextual grammar and paragraph writing.

Prerequisites or Necessary Entry Skills/Knowledge:
Placement by multiple measures.

FULFILLS MN TRANSFER CURRICULUM AREA(S) (Leave blank if not applicable)
☐ Goal 1: Communication: By meeting the following competencies:
☐ Goal 2: Critical Thinking: By meeting the following competencies:
☐ Goal 3: Natural Sciences: By meeting the following competencies:
☐ Goal 4: Mathematics/Logical Reasoning: By meeting the following competencies:
☐ Goal 5: History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences: By meeting the following competencies:
☐ Goal 6: The Humanities and Fine Arts: By meeting the following competencies:
☐ Goal 7: Human Diversity: By meeting the following competencies:
☐ Goal 8: Global Perspective: By meeting the following competencies:
☐ Goal 9: Ethical and Civic Responsibility: By meeting the following competencies:
☐ Goal 10: People and the Environment: By meeting the following competencies:

Topics to be Covered
- Grammar and mechanics
- Paragraph Construction
- Textual Analysis

Student Learning Outcomes
Construct simple, grammatically correct sentences. This may include, but is not limited to:
- Identifying basic grammar conventions, such as parts of speech, phrases, clauses, types of sentences, common sentence errors, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling;
- Crafting clear, effective, and varied sentences;
Applying grammar conventions, such as revising and editing for grammar and mechanics.

Create paragraphs that demonstrate basic paragraph construction. This may include, but is not limited to:
- Crafting a text’s main idea, or topic sentence to control the idea of the text;
- Analyzing the role of individual sentences within the paragraph;
- Writing a focused and well-developed paragraph;
- Organizing a paragraph to convey a text’s main idea.

Summarize and analyze various texts: Newspaper articles, Online articles, Short Stories, Essays, Poems. This may include, but is not limited to:
- Annotating a text;
- Differentiating between the student’s ideas and the ideas of others;
- Employing resources to identify and understand new vocabulary
- Summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting material;
- Responding to the ideas of others.

Revised Date: 1/18/2022