Note: This level is open to sixth-grade students and students who have taken Writing with Confidence Intro Level A (Medieval History-Based Writing Lessons).

Writing with Confidence uses the highly acclaimed and effective approach developed by the Institute for Excellence in Writing. Students gain mastery of the basic skills of writing through weekly lessons in structure and style. By practicing note-taking, writing from outlines, creative writing, essays, research reports, critiques, and other types of writing, students internalize the standard structure of such compositions so that it becomes second nature to them. In addition, they learn stylistic techniques and keep using them as the year progresses. Powerful word choices, sentence variation, and figurative language become easier for them, making their writing come alive. Since each lesson has a clear checklist of required elements of structure and style, students know exactly what they need to do to succeed on an assignment. As students gradually move toward independence with their writing skills, their confidence grows and their creativity blossoms.

Course content: Outlining, summarizing, writing from outlines, stories, topic sentences, research reports, creative writing, editing, revising, grammar, stylistic techniques, vocabulary enrichment, speaking from notes, class games and contests, final portfolio.

Intro Level B is targeted at students in grades 6 - 8 who have not had Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) instruction before, are reluctant writers, or need more instruction and practice in writing skills before taking Writing with Confidence Level 1. This course will be slowed down a bit from Level 1, and some content from the textbook may be modified or omitted to allow students to develop basic skills before progressing to more difficult techniques. This class also provides grammar and vocabulary instruction using a different approach than is used in Intro Level A.

Required materials: Purchased texts (see below), dictionary, two spiral notebooks, pocket folder, 3 x 5 index cards (120), 1-inch three-ring binder, pencils, pens, highlighters.

The Modern World History-Based Writing Lessons, 2nd edition, by Lori Verstegen, published by Institute for Excellence in Writing, 2020

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