

**2009-2010**  
**WHRO Classroom Preview**

**Series Title: The Writer's Circle - English Composition I**

**Curriculum Area: English**

**Grades: 9-12**

**# of Programs/Length: 13/28 minute programs**

English Composition I introduces the basic approaches to essay writing: narration, description, observation, analysis, argument, evaluation and research. Students follow the writing processes of invention, delivery (rhetorical tools, organizational strategies, voice) and revision. Each lesson builds upon the preceding lesson honing student skills in analysis, synthesis, and basic rhetoric.

The series incorporates direct instruction, dramatization and ongoing interviews with a diverse group of working writers. The three elements work together to teach the basic concepts and skills of composition, model a variety of successful approaches to the writing process, and motivate students to become better thinkers and writers.

**1.) Exploring The Process (PREVIEW PROGRAM)** - Introduces the writing process, focusing on invention, delivery and revision.

**2.) Explaining Relationships** - Examines the elements of narrative writing: developing a thesis, exploring beginnings, paragraphing and concluding.

**3.) Observing Details** - Explains the importance of observation: describing unique details of a subject and communicating them in sharp, specific terms.

**4.) Analyzing Concepts** - Explores the meaning of concepts underlying various events and institutions.

**5.) Analyzing Images** - Examines images to explore their relationship to and impact on viewers.

**6.) Building Arguments** - Provides the basic tools of argument: thesis; evidence, examples and appeals; counterarguments, concessions and qualifiers.

**7.) Responding To Arguments** - Develops logical strategies to respond to arguments external to the writer.

**8.) Evaluating & Organizing** - Introduces skills for developing criteria to make an argument of value.

**9.) Integrating Research** - Provides guidelines for research using MLA or APA format.

**10.) Searching For Causes** - Investigates the causes of behaviors, events or trends.

**11.) Imagining Solutions** - Analyzes the causes of a problem, and applies the elements of argument to seeking out solutions.

**12.) Discovering Voice** - Interprets the skills necessary to judge and respond to works of art.

**13.) Thinking Radically** - Communicates an effort to escape conventional thought patterns to imagine and write about something outside common intellectual activity.