

# The Essay: Writing as Thinking

*An Introduction to the Liberal Arts*

“*Que sais-je?*” 我知之几何?

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This course aims to develop and deepen reading, writing, and interpretation skills by returning us to the basic definition of the term “essay”: a trial and an attempt to put one’s thoughts into writing. To write an essay is to attempt to engage with the world, to discover what one thinks and elaborate one’s ideas about a set of questions, and to endeavor to communicate one’s thoughts, feelings, and commitments to an imagined readership.

We will read essays by philosophers, novelists, non-fiction writers, political collectives, experimental writers, and memoirists, along with scholarly articles written about these very same essays. We will pay attention to genre, form, rhetoric, and argumentation in the crafting of each of these pieces of writing and try to find our way to our own essayistic voice. The course will include short in-class writing assignments, and students will draft and revise a final essay inspired by the texts that we will read together.

Authors will include *Etel Adnan*, *James Baldwin*, *The Combahee River Collective*, *Joan Didion*, *Ursula K. Le Guin*, *Michel de Montaigne*, *Thomas Ogden*, and *Edward Said*, as well as essays from contemporary publications such as *The New Inquiry*, *N+1*, and *The Paris Review*.

## 课程定位 POSITIONING

### 批判性写作谱系之源

在 Lumine 的一对一导师课程体系之内，Critical Writing 系列构成一条通往严肃学术写作的完整阶梯。本次暑期密集课程《论文：写作即思考》，正是此一阶梯的源头所在。它所直面的，乃一切严肃学术写作最初亦最根本问题：一个人何以识其所思，又何以确信其所思者足以被郑重地写下。

本课程所面向者，为已经就读或即将进入 Exeter、Deerfield、Middlesex、Milton 等顶级寄宿学校的九至十年级学生。此一群体已凭其自身的努力与天资跻身北美中学系统中最为出色的学生行列。对于他们，本课程所提供的并非常规的“tutoring”，而是一份足以伴随其整个智识生涯的阅读谱系：蒙田、鲍德温、狄迪翁、勒古恩、萨义德，等等，将在其未来的 AP Language、Honors English 课堂，在大学的文学与人文研讨课上，乃至于研究生阶段的专题研究中反复出现。及早、系统、郑重地与这些作者相遇，是青春时代真正的启蒙。本课程的用意，正在于将此一启蒙交予 Lumine 的学生。

本课程之焦点落于“论文”（essay）作为独立文类的自身传统：其修辞源流、体裁自觉、声音的养成，以及随笔作者如何在看似自由的形式之中完成最为严苛的思维训练。学生将在 NYU 博士带领的小班研讨中精读上述作者的代表作品与相关学术评论，辨析每一篇文本在体裁、形式、修辞、论证四个层面的具体抉择，并在持续的写作工坊中，独立起草、反复修订一篇属于自己的长论文。

在根本的层面上，本课程意在培养一种长久的学术性情：以写作为思想的方法，以行文为去伪存真的场域。此一性情恰是人文学习能够给予下一代年轻人的最重要的财富和武器。

## COURSE AT A GLANCE

授课教师 <b>M. T., Ph.D.</b> <i>New York University</i>	班 型 <b>三至五人精品研讨班</b> <i>Harkness-style seminar</i>	招生对象 <b>顶级寄宿美高九至十年级</b> <i>Exeter · Deerfield · Middlesex · Milton</i>
时 长 <b>三周密集课程</b> <i>July 1 to July 20, 2026</i>	课 时 <b>每周 4 次，90 分钟</b> <i>Weekly 1v1 progress check-in with academic director</i>	最终成果 <b>独立长论文一篇，并修订稿</b> <i>Drafted, revised, workshopped</i>

## 课程安排 SESSION 2 SCHEDULE

July 1 to July 20, 2026 · 8:30 to 10:00 PM EST · 12 sessions

	WED	THU	SUN	MON
Week 1	Jul 1	Jul 2	Jul 5	Jul 6
Week 2	Jul 8	Jul 9	Jul 12	Jul 13
Week 3	Jul 15	Jul 16	Jul 19	Jul 20

学 费 USD \$150 / 小时 · 每位学生 含一对一论文指导与修改

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