Writing Workshop Key Terms

**Essay** - A piece of writing on a particular subject.

**Thesis Statement** - One sentence that summarizes the main idea of the essay.

**Ideas** - The opinions or thoughts of the writer.

**Organization** - Arranging an essay in a way that keeps similar ideas in groups known as paragraphs.

**Paragraph** - A group of sentences that explains the ideas of the writer.

**Brainstorming** - The way for writers to think of the ideas to include in an essay.

**Support** - Ideas from other people that writers use as evidence to back up and prove their own ideas.

**MLA Format** - MLA stands for Modern Language Association. MLA format is the way that a writer sets up an essay: 12-point font, Times New Roman, Double-Spaced, 1-inch margins, Header, and Heading.

**Sources** - The various books, essays, and other places a writer finds the support for an essay.

**Primary Source** - The main work of literature a writer focuses on and uses for an essay.

**Secondary Source** - Various texts a writer uses to find support for an essay.

**Expository** - An essay written for the purpose of informing, explaining, or describing the author’s subject matter.

**Descriptive** - An essay that asks a student to describe something in particular.

**Narrative** - An essay where the writer tells a story.

**Persuasive** - An essay that requires the writers to convince readers to agree with their position or opinion on a topic.