# Composition Writing Workshop with Shira Richman

We, grade FW12b and BW12c, had the unique chance to take part in a composition writing workshop as a preparation for our English A-level.

This course took place in our classroom in Dittelbrunn on Thursday, January 15th, 2015. Teacher of this workshop was Shira Richman, an American from Seattle who has been living in Nürnberg together with her husband for three years. She's working at the "Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Nürnberg" where she is holding workshops about writing essays. And to start with: it was a pleasure to have her with us in Dittelbrunn.

At the beginning of the course, she introduced herself, and talked about her life and Seattle. After that, each of us had to tell something about herself/himself, so she could get to know us.As an ice breaker game, Shira stuck little notes with essay-relevant words or phrases (like "therefore", "however" or "for example") on our backs. Each of the notes existed twice, so you had to find your partner without knowing the word on your back. So the other students were bound to explain your word to you and you had to guess it. After everyone had taken his seat, the first essay was handed out. We had to spot ten mistakes that were hidden in this essay, and in addition we had to complete it with a conclusion. Shira also showed us what is appropriate in a composition, what we needed to include in every single paragraph, and brainstormed ideas for points to accomplish an essay.

The next part of our workshop was picking out one essay out of three, all including three paragraphs, and we had to rank the best ones. In this essay, the introduction was missing, so it was our part again to write one.

At the end, each of us should present one essential tip for writing an argumentative essay, like "stay concentrated", "take down some notes" or "don't write too much, quality is better than quantity".

The workshop with Shira was great fun. Talking to a native speaker, and Miss Richman just spoke and understood English, so all of us had to practise our English language skills – we had no chance, was also a wonderful opportunity to improve our articulation and to use our English knowledge in real life. We had two great lessons with her and we are greatful for this experience.

A big "Thanks" goes to Shira Richman and also to Mr. Kunkel, our English teacher, who offered us this impressive chance.

Linda Herterich, FW12b and Kerstin Flockerzi, BW12c

Comments of pupils:

Perfect workshop ! - Very helpful tips and clues at the end ! - Why not having it a second time? - Diversified workshop ! - Improvement of pronunciation ! - Good brainstorming !

Zurück