

Class Expectations

Welcome to your English class. This syllabus will serve as your guideline for understanding what is expected from you in this course. Please hold onto it and refer to it when you have questions about grading or homework policies.

Homework: Whether it be a written assignment, outside reading, or research, it is extremely important that you spend time outside of class working on your English Language Arts. The assignments I give are intended to be meaningful and interesting. They are not busywork. They reinforce the principles and ideas we have introduced and discussed in class. Homework will be graded on a 0-5 scale, with 5 being maximum effort and skill. Late homework will be marked down a point each day. After a week, late homework will not be accepted.

Reading and Quizzes: Quizzes will not always be announced. If you are given a reading homework assignment, you can expect a quiz the following class period. This means that you must read and review what you have read. This does not mean that you will always have a quiz. When you are given a reading, you must decide what you think about it, and be ready the next day with a thoughtful response. "I liked it," is not considered a thoughtful response. Why did you like it? Similarly, it's perfectly acceptable to say that you didn't enjoy, or even hated, something that I assigned for you to read, but you need to be able to explain why. Develop an opinion of your own, and be ready to support that opinion.

Tests: Tests will be given on grammar, reading, and vocabulary, and graded on a 0-100 scale.

Class Participation: It is very important that you participate in both our class and group discussions. It proves to me that you are engaged in what we are doing and that you care..

Grades: I calculate quarterly grades by using a total-point system. Homework and classwork are generally worth five points. Essays and tests are general worth twenty points.

Makeup: If you are absent for any reason, the best way to find out what you missed is to check Google Classroom. If you missed a test, then I have to wait for you to make it up before I can hand that test back to the rest of the class. This means that I expect you to come back after school the day after you have been absent to make up quizzes and tests. Makeup homework should be completed within one week of absence, and credit will be reduced by one point each day after that time period. When passing in work from when you were absent, please write *absent* in the upper-left hand corner so that you do not get marked down.

Leaving the room: I expect you to take responsibility for yourselves. If you need to leave the room for any reason—bathroom, nurse, etc—please wait until an appropriate time in the class period. If a lesson is being presented at the board, and we're taking notes, or reading from our books, this is the wrong time. Don't ask unless it's an absolute emergency. Interruptions slow us down and break our focus. Please wait until after class or until you are given individual classwork or silent reading time before you ask to leave the room, and please do not make it a habit.

Writing: Essays will count as test-grades. You will be assigned a large number of essays this year on a variety of subjects. They must be completed on time, and you must follow all guidelines in your rubric. All essays must be double-spaced and neatly handwritten or typed.