

COURSE OUTLINE

Welcome to English 9 with Ms. Citton.

The year will be spent solidifying and practicing many of the skills learned in Grade 8. The language skills of reading, writing, speaking, viewing, and researching will be developed through a variety of written, oral, and visual assignments. Writing, creativity, and self-identity will be on the front burner and a major component of English 9.

Please read through the following course outline with your parents/guardians. There are permission forms that need to be signed and returned ASAP.

Our Theme for the Year:

*“Go into the arts. I’m not kidding.
The arts are not a way to make a living.
They are a very human way of making life more bearable.
Practicing an art, no matter how well or badly,
is a way to make your soul grow, for heaven’s sake!
Sing in the shower. Dance to the radio. Tell stories.
Write a poem to a friend, even a lousy poem.
Do it as well as you possibly can.
You will get an enormous reward.
You will have created something.”*

Kurt Vonnegut

English is more than reading and writing; it is the ability to create, communicate, and reflect effectively. It is an Art – one that I encourage students to try with an open mind. Throughout this year, students will be provided with ample opportunity to express themselves in a variety of creative ways. We will experiment with different forms of expression and mediums while weaving the all-important threads of communication, higher order thinking and reflection throughout.

Our Classroom

We are fortunate enough this year to have the computer lab as our classroom. Because of this great opportunity, we will primarily use Google Drive and the students’ @myndrs.com accounts. Please find, read, and sign the permission form attached.



Assessment and Evaluation

Your final grade will not be determined until your last assignment or exam has been marked. Your grade can change day-to-day, based on your mastery of the learning outcomes. Please refer to the Prescribed Learning Outcomes handout and the Assessment Overview.

The breakdown of marks:

Major Assignments 40%

Tests, essays, speech, long-term projects (3+weeks; 6+classes).

Minor Assignments 20%

Quizzes, homework, check-ins, short-term projects (<3 weeks; up to 5 classes).

Accelerated Reader 8%

This year Grade 9's require 40 points.

Exams 20%

You will write two exams – one in December and one in June. Each exam will be worth 10% of your final mark

Self-Assessment/Portfolio 10%

All year.

Participation 2%

In class, and online.

Supplies

- 1 x 1 in. binder with plastic covering
- 5 Dividers
 - Informal Writing
 - Formal Writing
 - Notes
 - AR
 - Assignments and Projects
- Pens – black, blue and red
- White out
- Pencil (for scantron only)
- Eraser
- Journal
- Lined Paper

Policies and Expectations

All school and academic policies are written in the student handbook. Please read these policies in full.

Absences

If a student misses a test or assignment because of an unexcused absence, he/she will receive a mark of **zero**. Missed test are to be written within 48 hours of the test date. Students who miss a test are responsible for arranging a time with the teacher.

Students are responsible for all missed work. All assignments, daily happenings and homework will be on the class website: ms-citton.weebly.com . Students are responsible for checking the website and completing missed work. Students should make every effort to return to class prepared. In order to do this, it is important that you contact me directly (in person or via email) or consult the course webpage **before** returning to class.

In the event of an extended absence, students are requested to bring a written explanation from their parents at least two weeks in advance.

Late to Class

Students will require a late slip to enter class after the second bell. Three lates will result in a detention.

Late Policy in regards to Assignments

There will be no mark penalty for late work until such time that the class work is marked and handed back. At this time, late assignments may or may not be accepted for full marks.

Cell Phones and other Electronics

Cell phones and other electronic devices may be used only with the **permission of the teacher**. Technology will play an important role in the classroom; we will use Chromebooks, Google Drive, and @myndrs.com accounts. All students have an @myndrs.com account – please find, sign, and return the permission form at the back of this document.

Students may bring a personal lap top to class in order to complete in-class assignments; should students choose to bring their own computer, they are responsible for it.



Ms. Citton's Pet-Peeves and Tips for YOUR success:

- Socks and Sandals – don't do it!
- Arrive on time.
- Be in uniform.
- Do your homework.
- Ask questions.
- Get involved and participate.
- Be open minded and go with it.
- Trust the process.



Other:

Tentative Schedule

Assignments, dates, and topics are subject to change.

September 3: Welcome and Introductions

September 5: Course Outline, Expectations, and Theme of the Course

September 9: Grammar Do's and Don'ts; Graphic Organizers; Original Compositions

September 11: Original Compositions; Visual Journals

September 15: **Original Composition In-Class Essay (minor assignment)**

September 17: **STAR Test**

September 19: Original Compositions

September 23: Original Compositions

September 25: **Original Composition In-Class Essay (major assignment)**

September 29: Begin Short Story Unit

October 1: Tone and Mood; In-text Citations and Quotes; MLA format

October 3: Character Sketches – Personal Character Sketches

October 7: **Personal Character Sketches due (minor assignment)**; *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* – Character Sketch (together)

October 9: *The Bully* – Roger Dean Kiser; Character Sketch (together)

October 14: *The Metaphor* – Budge Wilson; Character Sketch (Group Project)

October 16: *The Metaphor* – Budge Wilson; Character Sketch (Group Project)

October 20: **Character Sketch Group Project due at the END of class (minor assignment)**

October 22: Character Sketch review, practice, and final questions; **10 AR points due**

October 27: **In-class Character Sketch X-Grade (major assignment)**

October 29: Theme Paragraphs – Masks and Identity; together

October 31: Theme Paragraphs – Masks and Identity; group

November 4: In-Class Activity

November 6: In-Class Activity

November 12: Personal Theme Paragraph/Original Composition

November 14: Personal Theme Paragraph/Original Composition

November 18: **Personal Theme Paragraph/Story Due (minor assignment)**

November 20: Theme Paragraphs – *All Summer in a Day* – Ray Bradbury (group)

November 24: Theme Paragraphs – *All Summer in a Day* – Ray Bradbury; **Individual Paragraph due at the end of the block.**

November 26: Theme Paragraphs – *Harrison Bergeron* – Kurt Vonnegut

November 28: Theme Paragraphs – *Harrison Bergeron* – Kurt Vonnegut

December 2: **In-Class Theme Paragraph X-Grade (major assignment)**

December 4: Catch-up

December 8: Exam Review

December 10: Exam Review

December Exam – TBA 10% of final grade.