

## STATEMENT OF GOALS

The ninth grade curriculum introduces students to a seminar approach to the study and appreciation of literature and writing. Time is spent to learn and use *shared inquiry* as a method of exploring and gaining sensitivity to language and literature. Emphasis is placed consistently on how to question and discuss. Lessons using shared inquiry stress individual participation and involvement. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking skills and leadership development. Participation is essential for a thought provoking shared inquiry discussion. Less literature is read than in other high school sequences, but the material is covered in considerably more depth. The writing instruction stresses paragraph structure and development as well as organization of the essay. Sharing of student work is encouraged.

### TEXTBOOKS:

Golding, William. Lord of the Flies  
Lee, Harper. To Kill A Mockingbird  
Rose, Reginald. Twelve Angry Men  
Scheld, Elizabeth. Designs in Fiction  
Shakespeare, William. Romeo and Juliet  
Sohn, David. Ten Top Stories  
Steinbeck, John. Of Mice and Men  
POETRY: Selected by theme and author

### GRAMMAR

- I. Review grade 7 & 8 scope and sequence  
parts of speech and sentence patterns
- II. Verbals  
participles, gerunds and infinitives
- III. Clauses  
adjective, adverb and noun
- IV. Punctuation  
comma  
semi- colon  
colon
- V. Usage  
misplaced modifiers, dangling modifiers, sentence fragments and pronoun case

### Rewrite Policy

Essays with serious flaws (grades of C or below) may be revised and resubmitted. Rewrites may be brought up to a B. If you need help, please make an appointment with me for a writing conference. Rewrites are due one week from the date the original paper is returned. I encourage you to take advantage of this policy.

The original, graded paper must be attached to the rewrite. If it is not, the paper will not be re-graded and the grade will not change.

### Grading Policy

The quarterly grade is an average of a student's performance in literary analysis, essay writing, vocabulary, grammar, homework and participation. Each quarter there will be a balance of assignments in these areas.

The homework average counts as a test. Every student starts the quarter with a 100 homework average. Each assignment is worth five points. For example, if you miss five homework assignments, your homework average is a 75. Late homework may only be handed in the next day. Half credit will be given only if the answers were not given in class.

Participation, which counts as 2 tests, is based on shared inquiry discussions and behavior. Remember, if you do not complete the required reading on time, you will not only miss a homework assignment, but you will not be able to participate in class discussion.

### General Guidelines

1. It is your responsibility to make up work if you are absent.
2. If you are absent the day of a quiz or test, you must take the quiz or test the day you return.
3. You must come to class prepared with a pen, your notebook, folder and the textbook we are currently using. If not, you will lose five points off of your participation average.
4. Under no circumstance are cell phones allowed in class. Cell phones must be off and out of sight in your book bag. Visible phones will be confiscated.
5. Arrive promptly, or you will be marked late. Three late arrivals (unexcused) will earn you a detention and will reflect on your participation grade.
6. Positive class participation is a must! Give your best effort everyday.

### Important Days

English Test Day is \_\_\_\_\_.

English extra help is from 2:30- 3:15 on \_\_\_\_\_ or by appointment.  
Please see me in advance to make arrangements.

*Best wishes for a happy and successful year!!!!*