

Introduction to College English

Fall 2009- Spring 2010

Mr. Miller (kmiller@csh.k12.ny.us – 631-367-6919)

Course Description:

This class is all about getting you ready to enter a collegiate-level English class. A major area of focus will be research. The goal is for you to leave this class extremely comfortable with all that comes along with writing an effective, well-composed, and engaging research paper. We will also be working on our writing skills. Each student will work on developing his/her own personal writing voice and strengthen his/her ability to write in a variety of genres. In short, we will be getting extremely comfortable with the written word. Our reading skills will also be a prime concern this year. We'll be exposing ourselves to a plethora of fiction and non-fiction to help cultivate our critical reading abilities. Essentially, this year is about getting ready to read, write, think and express yourself in the years ahead.

Grading:

Homework and Classwork (25%): All homework must be completed before arriving to class. Absent students are responsible for the work within one day of returning. Homework will be graded on content (what you say) and execution (how you say it) with a check plus (100), check (90) and check minus (65) system. **Missing work receives a 0.** A student who receives a high classwork grade will consistently and respectfully participate in class discussions and will *come to each class* with all required materials. Students need a **separate binder for English, containing the following five (5) sections: Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry, Writing, Words.**

Journal (25%): Students will bring a **bound** journal (with the student's name and "Intro to College English" on the cover) with them to every class and will be responding to questions and prompts, which will encourage them to think deeply and write reflectively about our reading, our world and our selves (**all entries must be dated with the question itself written at the top**).

Essays, Papers and Writing Assignments (25%): These in-class and out-of-class assignments will be given throughout the year and are designed to prepare students for the writing tasks in college and beyond. There will also be optional extra-credit assignments (TBA shortly).

Tests/Quizzes and Presentations (25%): Vocabulary, grammar, literature, etc.

Books We Will Be Using This Year:

Full-length Fiction:

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey, *Ordinary People* by Judith Guest, *The Stranger* by Albert Camus, other selected novels

Plays: *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller, *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams, *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, *Hamlet and Othello* by William Shakespeare, other selected plays

Short Stories and Poetry: Selections by Mr. Miller (not Arthur, the aforementioned playwright)

Non-Fiction: *Patterns for College Writing* (textbook), selections from *The Essay Connection* (textbook), *Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom, other selected essays.

Vocabulary: *Vocabulary Workshop Level G*