

Mr. Bosley's 9th Grade English Class Blueprint

Welcome to English 9! I am looking forward to a challenging yet rewarding year. The following information will help us get a better idea of the class ahead. I have taken the time to develop a structure. Please ask questions.

Course Description: This course is structured to explore fiction and nonfiction works. All students' work will focus on establishing and honing the skills needed to succeed on the Common Core English exam in 11th grade and in your future.

Grading: I will calculate grades on a point system. Assessments will be worth 100 points. Quizzes will vary in point value. Homework will be graded, and values of each will vary depending on length and rigor.

Assessments: "Tests" will be skill-based assessments. I expect you to have done the reading, and the periodic quizzes will give you an opportunity to earn points for having done so. Our unit studies will focus on developing and practicing a skill or several skills. These skills will then be assessed on the "tests".

- Tests will vary in format. The structure will be determined by the skill or skills we are demonstrating.
- These skills will enable you to succeed in your college experience and future career.

Quizzes: Expect a quiz on any reading assigned to be completed at home. This is your way to earn points for doing the work. Quizzes will vary in point value based upon length and importance.

- Quizzes will check for reading comprehension and vocabulary understanding.
- If you have missed a quiz, you have until one (1) week after I post the grades to the portal to make it up.
 - If you have not taken the quiz within one week of its posting, the assignment will receive an INC (incomplete) and be counted as a zero.

Homework: Expect homework. All homework is assigned with a purpose, whether it's reading, writing, or worksheets. Homework segues into tomorrow's learning. If you have not done the homework, you are not prepared to learn or to participate. Value your opportunity. Homework assignments will have different point values based upon the time and effort expected. You are expected to try all homework even if you aren't exactly sure what to do. You must risk being wrong to be right; making mistakes is part of the learning process.

- Late homework assignments will only be accepted up to one (1) week after I post the grades to the portal. I do this to encourage you to check the portal routinely and to keep you from dumping a bunch of makeup work on me at the end of the quarter.
 - After one (1) week has passed, the assignment will remain as an INC (incomplete) on the portal and will be factored into the average as a zero (0).
 - Homework leads to class. Late homework puts you behind in the class.
- Any homework that appears copied or paraphrased from another source will receive no credit. If another student or students is/are involved, that work will also receive no credit.

ESSAYS: All essays are worth 100 points. Any take-home essay may be revised. I spend numerous hours grading your essays and offering revision notes. I expect to see an equal amount of time and energy put forth in your revisions. Revision and editing are different. **Editing is fixing typos, punctuation, capitalization, and grammatical errors. Such efforts are expected before you submit your essay and therefore will receive no additional credit as a “revision”.** Revising means adding, changing, removing, and rethinking your essay. Revising takes time and effort, and therefore revisions will receive an improved grade. Revisions are due by the end of the quarter in which they were assigned.

Your essays need to be printed out and stapled before class.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is one form of cheating. According to the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, “plagiarism has been defined as ‘the false assumption of authorship: the wrongful act of taking the produce of another person’s mind, and presenting it as one’s own.’ To use another person’s ideas or expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source is to plagiarize.” When writing papers/essays for my class, I want you to use your own analytical mind and the literature you have read. The only time you should need to cite information is when using quotations from the literature about which you are writing—unless I indicate otherwise. When analyzing literature, do not use information from sources such as SparkNotes, CliffNotes, fellow students’ essays, etc. Papers that contain plagiarism will receive a zero. After discussion, students may be given the opportunity to write the paper properly in my presence, during a time that is convenient for me. **Value your opportunity to maintain a good reputation; practice ethical behavior.**

Plagiarism of Homework: If your homework is similar or word for word the same as another student’s or students’, and this similarity is determined by me to exhibit copying, sharing ideas, or cheating, your homework and the homework of the other or others will receive a ZERO.

I know you have a lot this year, and you may find yourself overwhelmed. If this is the case, I would rather you asked for an extension than copy, cheat, or plagiarize just to submit the assignment on time.

Works We Will Be Using This Year may include:

Fiction:

Selections of short stories and poetry

The Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Julius Caesar and Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

Marathon by Boaz Yakin & Joe Infurnari

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Mythology Edited by Edith Hamilton

Nonfiction: selections of historical documents, first person accounts, essays, and newspaper articles.

Year Grades: Your English grade is an average of your four quarter grades.

Communication: I am available for extra help during any of my prep periods. You can also meet with me any day before or after school. You need to give me some notice and

make an appointment. You can email me with questions at jbosley@csk12.ny.us. If you are struggling or have questions, come see me. I am always open to discuss.