

English 9 Honors

Course Overview

The class will begin with an overview that focuses on the means of communication and storytelling regarding diction, syntax, semantics and rhetoric, academic and intentional use of vocabulary, and literary structures and styles. The students will be expected to analyze different forms of communication (primarily written) and learn how to incorporate these styles into their own writing. Students will also be expected to adopt and emulate the writing techniques to which they have been exposed. Through close readings, students will be able to identify structure, tone, author's intent, and style in a number of different forms and genres, and then make use of the author's stylistic devices in their own writing. The students can expect an intense experience with regards to reading and writing. Although the majority of the work covered is fictional, non-fiction selections will accompany each unit; multiple student essays and writing samples will be required throughout the units covered within each quarter.

It is expected that all students will be prepared to take 10th grade English Honors the following school year. This being said, the students should expect a high level of rigor that will prepare them for the course.

Many forms of writing and analysis will take place during the course. The multitude of papers written by the students, both in-class and out-of-class essays, will all undergo peer, self, and teacher evaluations; weekly after-school tutoring sessions will be offered in addition to in-class collaborative groups and will be geared toward reviewing and assessing work. Research projects, timed essays, responses to professional work, reflections, analytical questioning, oral reports and other course assignments are geared toward increasing exposure to literary styles and canons, from which each student can pull inspiration and improve their college level writing, through command of rhetorical strategies, diction, syntax, semantics, and exposure to specified sources.

Activities Throughout Each Quarter

Certain process writing, analysis, and reflection skills, whether stated or not, will continue through each quarter. It should be assumed that the skills are covered thoroughly throughout collaborative groups, class discussions, direct instruction and questioning. Students will be guided in techniques that include rhetoric, graphic organizers, and work on repetition, transitions and emphasis.

Intense focus on the following:

Diction, syntax, semantics, vocabulary development, rhetoric, AP test prep (essay and multiple choice), figurative, poetic and rhetorical devices, annotation and close reading, MLA format and management of sources

Core texts to be read

Of Mice and Men
The Curious Incident of the
Dog in the Nighttime
The Odyssey – with focus on Book 9,
10, 12, 21-23
Romeo and Juliet
Shakespearean Sonnets
To Kill a Mockingbird

Modes of discourse (forms of writing) to be practiced

Explanatory/Informative
(exemplification)
Argument and Persuasion
Literary Analysis Narrative
Precise writing