

7th Grade Honors English Language Arts

Mr. Simpson: Room 14

Welcome

Welcome to English 7 Honors! This course will encourage students to use a wide range of communication skills including those involved in written and oral English including the following: organization and development of effective communication, grammar, punctuation, vocabulary, spelling and personal voice. In addition, students will be complicating and making their reading skills more complex through: class discussion, independent, group, and class reading, passage and literary analysis and reflection.

Contact Me

✉ ksimpson@paparts.org
✍ Messages in student's agenda
✍ Appointment by request
✍ Remind text messages
🌐 Class Website:
<http://mrsimpsonclasses.weebly.com/>
👉 *The most efficient way to reach me is through email.*
Phone: 505-830-3128

Materials

1 highlighter*
2 notebooks*
#2 pencils for year*
1 package colored pencils*
Scissors (optional)
Kleenex and Clorox wipes always appreciated

*** Must be college rule composition notebook with at least 80 pages*

**Students are required to bring colored pencils, pencils, highlighter to class everyday. A pencil bag is suggested.*

**If you are not able to bring materials needed please see me for other arrangements.*

Grade Weights and Descriptions

- Process 35 % of grade: Assignments in this category are designed to measure growth in basic ELA skills. Examples of this include daily writing, and self reflection/evaluation
- Product 40 % of grade: Assignments that require students to apply class concepts. Included in this are projects, tests, and papers.
- Participation 25 % of grade: Assignments in this category assess students for being present and attentive in class. Some examples are attendance, and participation.
- For more detailed information please see the class website.

Grades:

A = 90%-100% B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79% D = 60%-69%
F = Below 60

Grades are available on PowerSchool. Please check this regularly and alert me of any issues with particular assignments. If you do not have a login please see the registrar.

Late Work and Other Policies

Late Work: Projects may be submitted late for a penalty of one letter grade per day late. **No other homework will be accepted late.**

Extra Credit: There is none.

Test/Quiz Retake: Students will have the opportunity to correct any test/quiz to recoup points up to a "C".

Paper Revision: Students may revise any larger writing assignment within the same quarter it was assigned.

Important Assignments

Daily Reading: Students will not keep a log (I have found they are often dishonest). Students are expected to read from independent or class assigned novels every night for a minimum of 30 minutes. This reading will be assessed in a written response

Reflection: Students will frequently complete responses to reading. One such assignment is called an Article of the week. These assignments along with response to other readings and self reflection will encompass a significant portion of students' grades.

Daily Writing: Students are expected to produce 5 pages a week of writing. Students receive 10 minutes every day to work on this writing in class every day, however some students may need to bring home their notebook in the evening to finish the page they are working on.

Papers: In class, we do not have very many tests so the majority of students product grade comes from written assignments. We will study different genres of writing like personal essays and poetry throughout the year and each unit will ask students to take several longer pieces completely through the writing process (that is brainstorming, drafting, revising, and proofreading).

Absentee Policy:

Students who are absent from class are responsible for taking initiative to obtain their own makeup work. Students can check the "While You Were Out" binder for missing assignments. In addition, students can check with peers or teacher for any confusion, **do not expect teacher to supply you with makeup work.** Students have 1 day for each day absent to complete makeup work, any work remaining incomplete after this period will receive a zero.

Tardy: Students are expected to be in their seats and working on daily writing by the time the second bell rings. Failure to do so will result in a marking of tardy, which causes a loss of half of the days' attendance points.

E-submission policy: Assignments assigned prior to students' absence will be due the day they return. Feel free to submit assignments via email/Google Docs. Further, internet and printer issues are not an excuse for missing deadlines, handwriting an assignment is always possible.

Note: Any assignments collected while absent will be marked as a zero until submitted.

Academic Honesty

It is expected that students will use genuine, sincere, and fair means for the accomplishment of the tests, tasks, or projects from which evaluations of progress shall be determined. Students found plagiarizing, copying or cheating in any way will receive automatic zeros and have phone calls made to their parents. In addition, repeated offenses will result in a failing grade for the nine weeks or semester depending on the nature of the incident.

Rules

Students are expected to follow these basic rules.

1. Be prepared for class everyday.
2. Follow directions the first time.
3. Make informed choices.
4. Take personal responsibility.
5. Respect yourself, the classroom, and others.

Other Expectations

Reading:

Students will have homework every night. Students are expected to read from independent or class assigned novels every night for a minimum of 20 minutes. This reading will be assessed monthly.

Other Ways to Stay Connected

Website: Features a calendar, vocabulary tutorial videos, and occasionally superb student work.

Google classroom: The class will be using Google Classroom this semester. Students will be able to take quizzes and submit written work via this platform. In addition, students (and/or parents) may want to obtain the app to receive class announcements.

Remind: App that allows students and parents to receive text reminders of class announcements like homework.

Course Outlook

In class we alternate the reading of class novels with writing genre studies. What follows is a tentative outline of the year (this is subject to change).

*Note: What is not listed are the numerous short stories, poems, excerpts, and independent reading novels students will also engage with this year.

Writing Genres

Freeverse poetry
 Literary analysis
 Vignette
 Memoir
 Gift poetry
 Neruda odes
 Editorial
 Profile
 Multigenre writing project
 Goodreads Book Review

Class Novel Study

Speak- Laurie Halse Anderson
 American Born Chinese- Gene Luen Yang
 Character Analysis Literature Circle – Various Authors
 Enrique’s Journey (YA version)- Sonia Nazario
 Dystopian Literature Circle- Various Authors
 At least 5 independent reading novels (can be selected from class library, local library, or students’ home).

Bloom’s Taxonomy

7th grade ELA focuses on analysis. The curriculum in this class spirals to allow students multiple occasions to learn and practice new and old material in an increasingly complex manner. Honors classes , in particular, focus on spend more time with subject matter, working at higher level thinking skills. For more information see: <http://bit.ly/1ma4OSB>

Parent Homework: Tell me about your student in 10,000 words or less.

I have read and understand the rules and expectations for English 7. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to contact my teacher if I have any questions or concerns. I know that this syllabus, assignments, calendars, and resources are available to me on the class website and Google Classroom at any time. I know that assignments can be emailed to the teacher at any time and that printer/computer/flash drive issues are not an excuse for late assignments.

Student Signature

Parent Signature
