

9th Grade English - 2019/2020
Public Academy for Performing Arts
Elizabeth S. Layton

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Planning Period: 11:58 a.m. - 12:52 p.m.

Remind App: @LaytonE09

Course Description

Ninth grade English is a course designed to build on content learned within the 8th grade Language Arts class and to provide enrichment and a deeper understanding of Language Usage and Mechanics, Literary Devices, Oral and Written Communication, Research and Citation, Poetry, and Classical and Contemporary Literature.

Students will use analytical and critical thinking skills while examining the various literary forms. Skills measured on the state End of Course (EOC) assessment will be studied within English 9. And students are expected to continue their independent learning strategies through reading on their own time, completing all homework assignments, participating in class discussions, expanding their research skills, and completing all daily writing activities.

Course Objectives

Students will:

1. benefit from course rigor, relevance, and relationships within the classroom community.
2. apply appropriate strategies in developing reading skills for a variety of purposes.
3. recognize literary elements of short stories, novels, essays, poems, and plays.
4. apply listening skills, personal study skills, and principles of Standard English in vocabulary.
5. demonstrate knowledge of language terminology and application of the concepts through speaking and writing.

Course units are designed to provide students with skills that prepare them for success throughout high school and beyond. Each unit will have its own vocabulary as well as anchor reading assignments, followed by class activities and reinforcements. Unit assessments will gauge students mastery skills and content.

New Mexico Common Core State Standards used within this course can be found at the Core Standards website [here](#).

Class Website

Our class website can be found at <https://elizabethlayton.wixsite.com/wordbyword>. Class grade-level syllabus, class assignments, units of study and resources can be found on our class website.

Classroom Expectations

The rules are few but firm:

- Be present and prompt.
- Be courteous and cooperative, especially to substitutes.
- Be prepared and willing to work.
- Be accepting and kind.

DAILY ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. If you are going to miss school, please discuss this with your teachers and be prepared to turn in your work before your absence.

Class Technology

Students will be using their Google Drive, Google Classroom, and our class website for many aspects of the English 9 assignments. As the use of technology is an important part of our current workforce and academic training institutions, it is essential for all students to be comfortable and proficient using a variety of platforms and collaborative tools.

Thus, in this class, we will learn and use our technology for academic enhancement and enrichment.

Class Supplies

- Composition Notebook (college ruled)
- 1" binder for only English class
- Binder Dividers (at least 5 dividers)
- Loose-leaf paper for English class binder
- Highlighters
- Pencils and pens
- Library card
- Earbuds

Grading

In order to graduate from high school, this course must be passed with 60% or above. Keep in mind, I can only assess and record grades earned as described below. Grades are generally posted within 72 hours of submission of work. Grades are weighted as follows:

Grading Scale	Weight of Assignments
A = 100 – 90 B = 89 – 80 C = 79 – 70 D = 69 – 60 F = 59 – 0	In-Class Assignments = 30% Homework = 10% Quizzes = 15% Tests = 20 % Interactive Notebooks = 15% Participation = 10%

Personal Electronic Devices

Technology can be a very valuable educational resource. Students are allowed to use electronic devices at specified times and only when authorized by the teacher for instructional purposes. Devices such as smartphones, Kindles, Nooks, laptops, and iPads are items students can use at the designated time. Students may also use these devices to replace paperback/hard-cover novels required for purchase/use for reading assignments when applicable.

Outside of teacher designated times, students must keep their cell phones in their pockets, bags, or backpacks. In other words, they must not be a distraction from their educational engagement and learning focus.

As students are required to complete a novel study project outside of class three times during the school year, it is advised that every student has their own library card and the Overdrive App on their most-used electronic device to easily access a free novel for these projects and other reading requirements.

Attendance and Make-Up Policy

Attendance is an imperative part of successfully completing this course. When absences are necessary students have two days to make up missed assignments/tests. It is the responsibility of the student to ask the teacher for the work missed. If a student is absent on a test day, they should be prepared to schedule a time to take the test within three instructional days of their return to school.

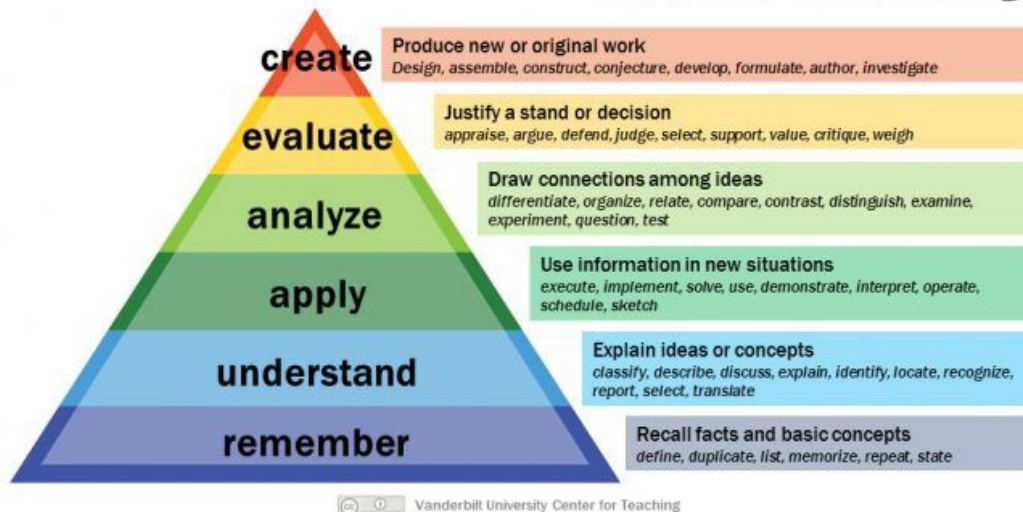
Missed assignments and tests are not given during class time; these are completed after school or for homework. If absent on a day of a pre-arranged assignment (essay or project) due date, the assignment is still due that day unless prior arrangements have been made with me. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please talk with me before your absences or missed work cause problems with your grade in this class.

Class Format

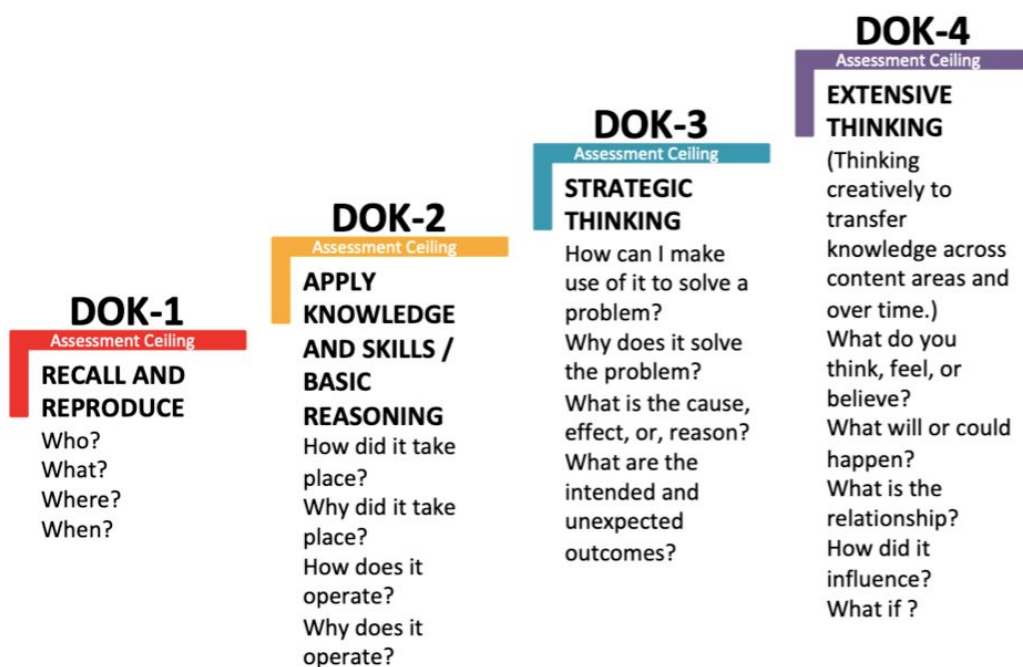
- The class will be taught holistically using units of literature, grammar, composition, and vocabulary. Reading, writing, and critical thinking will be emphasized, with a concentration on understanding and interpreting literature.

- Students will work on assignments and projects on an individual, partner, and group basis depending on the requirements of a variety of activities.
- Various activities, both in and out of the classroom, both oral and written, will be required.
- Quizzes can occur at any time.
- Students should plan on spending 20-40 minutes a night for this class.
- Instructional processes will include the use of Bloom's Taxonomy and Webb's Depth of Knowledge. Please refer to the graphics below for detailed information on these practices.

Bloom's Taxonomy



Webb's Depth of Knowledge



Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am pleased to have your child in my class this year. You can find all of my contact information on the first page of this syllabus. The quickest way to reach me is via email (elayton@paparts.org), as I do teach classes in other classrooms than my own throughout the school day. You will also be able to find easy access to this syllabus on PAPA’s website on the staff page and then scroll down to my name.

Ninth grade is the first year in which credits will be earned towards graduation. Becoming a freshman is an important transition in your child’s education. Making this adjustment is extremely important because it will involve changing study habits and attitudes toward academics in addition to setting goals for the future.

English 9 is an academic subject in which students need good foundational skills for future education as well as for communicating in the workplace as adults. It is my goal this year to meet and exceed all the English New Mexico State Common Core standards and objectives in order for your child to master the End of Course test, which is required by The New Mexico State Department of Education. All activities in this class will be focused on mastering these skills.

As a teacher, it is my job to guarantee all my students an appropriate teaching/learning atmosphere. All behavioral standards will be explained and posted. It is important for students at this age to feel a sense of independence as well as to understand the responsibility that comes with that independence. On the first day of school, I will discuss with students our Classroom Expectations, which defines the behaviors I expect in my classroom. All students will be required to adhere to this code.

Additionally, I will need your help in keeping your child/student focused on academics. Thank you for your support. I look forward to a productive, successful, and engaging year with both you and your child.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth S. Layton

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent Daytime Phone Number

Parent Email Address

*By signing this form you acknowledge that you have read and understood the information contained in Ms. Layton’s class syllabus.