

Junior English Syllabus

Course Description: This course is aligned with the English Literature Standards within the Nevada Educator Performance Framework, aimed at promoting mastery of the Core Learning Goals set by the State of Nevada.

Course Objectives: As a class, we will continue building upon last year's fundamental skill sets in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. As a result of this learning within the first quarter, students will be able to:

- ❑ Analyze theme and deeper meanings within a given text
- ❑ Recognize primary rhetorical devices used in literature
- ❑ Interpret an author's point of view and voice within a text
- ❑ Compare and contrast various texts
- ❑ Appreciate various structures within a narrative
- ❑ Write a strong, cohesive thesis statement
- ❑ Cite evidence within a text to support their thesis statement
- ❑ Write an essay which answers the unit's essential question

Class Responsibilities and Expectations:

Beyond all the rules and regulations which will be outlined down the page, I want you all to ask yourselves: *How can I improve upon my academic and behavioral performance from last year?*

Our time together last year had its good and bad moments; what I'm going to ask is that we improve this year, as a class. I know that YOU know certain behaviors are unacceptable, and this year, I will teach with a much firmer hand. Again, I know you all know MY non-negotiables, but here's a quick review:

- ❑ No talking over, interrupting, or disrespecting me, OR your classmates.
- ❑ If I ask for your phone, GIVE IT UP.
- ❑ If I ask you to do something, DO IT.
- ❑ If you tell me you're going to do something, DO IT.
- ❑ Be accountable for yourself, DON'T BLAME OTHERS.

Beyond these non-negotiables from last year (which very much still apply) here are three more that you will be expected to follow:

1. **Be On-Time**

I want you at your desk, ready to work by the time class begins. You all know how small

this school is, and thus there is usually no compelling reason why you should be late. If

there is such a reason, however, I will do my best to accommodate it. Otherwise, this is the expectation, so get used to it.

2. **Be Present**

I want you to not just be physically present, but engaged and focused as well. Keep in mind, we only have a half a year together, but still will be aiming to get through almost one whole school year's worth of work. So, time is more valuable than ever, and being present to me is about much more than just being in your seat for the whole class period. I need your attention, I need your focus in order to get you to the places you need to go.

3. **Be Productive**

Too often last year I watched as some of you wasted away your class time, choosing to fool around instead of doing what was asked of you. That was last year. This year, again in that we have so little time together, we need to skip the games and handle our business as scholars! The expectation is pretty simple: *take advantage of the class time provided.*

This mainly pertains to your classwork, which becomes homework if you don't get it done. We won't have nearly enough time this year to have the kinds of make-up work days we had last year. So, if you decide to not use your time wisely, expect to find your own time to get it done.

Review of Hierarchy of Consequences Pyramid

1. Verbal Warning
2. Time-Out with School Counselor
3. Administrative Session

If as a class, we can follow these three basic rules/expectations, it can be a fun semester, which I want!

Grading Policy

As you're certainly used to by now, your overall grade will be broken up into three categories. Below is a chart of how it breaks down:

Includes=involving but not limited to

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| Participation | Includes: "Do Nows", various journal-writing exercises, M.U.G. drills, digital note-taking, small group work, exit tickets, ATTENDANCE, etc. | 30% weight |
| Classwork | Includes: Reading response questions, graphic organizers, in-class timed-writes, group projects, ACT prep work, etc. | 30% weight |
| Assessments | Includes: Quizzes, Tests, Essays, Papers, Socratic Seminars, Group Projects | 40% weight |