ENGLISH I

**Course Syllabus—Mr. Thackeray**

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**Course Description--**

English consists of studies in the language arts -- reading, writing, speaking, and listening. “*The discipline of writing something down is the first step toward making it happen”—Lee Iacocca.*

**Expectations--**

 **Academic:**

I place primary emphasis on writing. Members of the class will write journal responses, essays, book reports, letters, and technical instructions in addition to some creative writing and note taking. Students will also read, comprehend, and interpret various genres of literature. They will participate in class discussions and group activities. Students should be in their seats and writing in their journals when the tardy bell rings. *“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and diligence”—Abigail Adams.*

 **Discipline:**

In the classroom every person will treat every other person with consideration and respect. (Examples of disrespect include plagiarism, tardiness, name-calling, and ethnic, religious, or gender slurs.) **Attendance:** Pre-planned absences for school or personal activities—work must be submitted prior to absence; Absence due to illness or emergency—work due dates depend on length of absence, except book reports which are due the first day student returns to class. “*Self-discipline begins with the mastery of your thoughts. If you don't control what you think, you can't control what you do. Simply, self-discipline enables you to think first and act afterward”—Napoleon Hill.*

 **Community Service:**

Each student will participate in a significant (approximately 8 hours) project providing direct or indirect service to the community every quarter. Projects require prior teacher approval. I encourage long-term commitment (year-long endeavors). “*Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country”—John F. Kennedy.*

**Book Report Due Dates are Posted on the West Whiteboard.**

**Book Reports are Worth 200 Points and MUST be Typed.**

**Computer failure is not accepted as an excuse.**

**Grading--**

Expect no True/False tests and few multiple-choice tests; therefore, prepare for short essay quizzes and longer essay tests. Writing will receive a number grade based on a modified 6 + 1 Trait Writing rubric. Emphasis will be on thought, clarity, completeness, and mechanics (format, grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation) depending upon the type of writing assigned. Journals will be graded; thus, organization of class journals in a single notebook will be essential.

A grade of **A** implies excellence. In order to earn an **A** in Freshman English, students will be required to earn **90%** average score or higher on all class assignments and complete an additional scholarly report (local or veteran’s history reports, or equivalent assignment with teacher approval) per quarter following the guidelines agreed upon between the individual student and the teacher.

**A+=100%; B=80%-99% with no project; C=70%-79%; D=60%-69%; F=0%-59%.**

**Late work is not acceptable. Work missed due to absence must be made up according to school board policy.**

**Exception: Book reports, since they are pre-assigned, are due on the first day back from absence.**

“*Life is an error-making and an error-correcting process, and nature in marking man's papers will* ***grade*** *him for wisdom as measured both by survival and by the quality of life of those who* survive”—*Jonas Salk.*

## Books--

Textbooks include Holt, Rinehart, Winston’s *Adventures in Reading*, and Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich’s *English Composition and Grammar*. Other books may be used to supplement the literature strand specifically Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

## Required Materials--

In addition to typical school supplies (planner, notebook, pen, pencil, highlighter, etc.) students will need a separate notebook to serve as a journal. I also strongly suggest a separate notebook to take notes—I also strongly suggest taking notes. Some assignments may require typing or word-processing, but extra time is usually included for these assignments. If student does not have access to a word processor s/he must make arrangements well in advance of due date. Laptops are available in the library.

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We have read the **English I Course Syllabus** and understand the expectations and guidelines therein described:

Student signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_