



ENGLISH 12 – E.R.W.C. Department of English

Analy High School

We do language. That may be the measure of our lives.

Morrison, Toni. "Nobel Prize for Literature." Nobel. Stockholm, Sweden. 7 Dec. 1993. Lecture.

Why another year of English, one might ask? Some answers might be:

1. So students graduate with a certain amount of cultural literacy, capable of catching the allusions to classic literature that bombard them on a daily basis.
2. So they can consume written texts with a critical eye aware of rhetorical ploys and apply critical theory.
3. So they can write a logical and thoughtful response to a question, using reputable data to support their claims.
4. So they can make meaningful, well-informed contributions to discussions. (2012-2013 Syllabus)

And while I concur, I add one more "objective." I hope you forgive my crude (but I believe) apt metaphor: Seniors are like aged beef cooked perfectly. They need to "rest" in their own juices to become truly delicious. Yes, delicious, I say! **English 12 is necessary to make you flavorful!** Whether you are off to Oxford, Chico, SRJC, the armed forces, the labor market, or your parents' basement apartment, you owe it to yourself and our society to become deliciously insightful, clever, funny, amused, critical, angry and active.

Course Description

This Expository Reading and Writing Course is designed to prepare college-bound seniors for the literacy demands of higher education. Through a sequence of rigorous instructional units, students in this year-long, rhetoric-based course will develop advanced proficiency in expository, analytical, and argumentative reading and writing.

Units also provide instruction in research methods and documentation conventions. Students will be expected to increase their awareness of the rhetorical strategies employed by authors and to apply those strategies in their own writing. They will read and analyze both fiction and nonfiction closely and examine the social, political, and philosophical assumptions that underlie the text.

Semester One

- Unit 1 All About You: The College Application/ Scholarship Essay (Aug 26-Sept 20)
 - Unit 2 The Rhetoric of the Op-Ed Page: Ethos, Pathos, Logos/Letters to Editor (Sept 23-Oct 11)
 - Unit 3: The Politics of Food/ *Stuffed and Starved*/*Fast Food Nation*/*Tomatoland* (Oct 14-Oct 25)
 - Unit 4: Theory, Theory, Theory: *Heart of Darkness* (Oct 28-Nov 26)
 - Unit 5 Language, Gender and Culture: *Beloved* (Dec 2-Jan 10)
- MID-TERM: ALL English 12 classes will take a common midterm following this unit.

Semester Two

- Unit 1: The Value of Life: *Frankenstein* (Jan 13-Feb 28)
- Unit 2: Social Issues: Research Project/*Macbeth* (Mar 3-Apr 18)
- Unit 5: Longing to Communicate: *Zoo Story* & *Catcher in the Rye* (April 21-May 16)
- Unit 6: More Postmodern: *The Metamorphosis* (May 19-29)

Course Norms

As we discuss course readings, do activities, share writing, and develop academic level discourses, I encourage all class members to aspire to these characteristics unpacked by Zeichner and Liston (1996):

1. **Openmindedness:** A class member who demonstrates “‘openmindedness’ shows an active desire to listen to more sides than one, gives full attention to alternative possibilities, and recognizes the possibility of error in beliefs that are dearest to her/him.”
2. **Responsibility:** A class member who demonstrates “‘responsibility’ carefully considers the consequences to which an action leads.”
3. **Wholeheartedness:** A class member who is “‘wholehearted’ regularly examines her/his own assumptions and beliefs and the results of her/his actions and approaches all situations with the attitude that she/he can learn something new.”

Professional Attitude: You are expected to maintain at all times a professional and respectful attitude toward the instructor, your peers, and your own learning. Harassment of any kind—implied, written, oral, or physical towards any member of the class or instructor will not be tolerated.

Maxson’s Pet Peeves (aka Negative Attention Getters):

1. **Excuses!** In *Princess Bride*, the character Wesley states, “We are men of action.” Man, woman, beast or otherwise, be a person of action. **No excuses!**
2. Always have a pen at the ready—**assignments written in pencil receive 50% credit and cannot be made up.**
3. Raise your hand before speaking
4. Listen respectfully to the teacher and your classmates
5. If you use the restroom during class time or receive a call slip, you must sign out and may be asked to put your cell phone in the basket by the door to assure test security.
6. Unless told it’s ok to use your mobile device (maybe to access a dictionary), it must be kept out of sight. If I see it, I take it.
7. Don’t even think about copying homework—even for another class—this is a serious breach of academic integrity and will not be tolerated.
 1. If you **MUST** eat, be discreet! And by all means, clean up after yourself.
 2. Tardies.

****Desk Duty for any one of the above offenses; referrals for repeat or egregious offenders.**

****Referrals gladly granted to anyone acting peevish (see 1-8)**

Homework

Homework is due at the beginning of the period. All assignments should be completed in pen on clean, smooth-edged binder paper and include MLA heading (left aligned full name, teacher’s last name, course name/period, date, and center aligned TITLE) or **typed, printed, and stapled before class.** A tentative schedule of assignments will be posted on Ms. Maxson’s website and handed out. A schedule of assignments will be handed out in the second week of each semester. Additional homework assignments or changes to the schedule will be written on the board and verbally explained. Because I distribute a calendar that details daily assignment and these handouts are then available on my website, confusion (and unfortunately for some of you) excuses should be eliminated! I expect you to know what’s due when. ***If you have been absent, consult the calendar for what you missed, then see me during to tutorial, so you can TELL ME what you need.***

GRADES:

Your qualitative work will be assessed on the following standards-based scale:

- 1) Exceeds expectations
- 2) Meets the standard
- 3) Approaching proficiency
- 4) Deficient

Assessments are not calculated; they are determined. For this reason, I will not engage in “point” discussions. I will discuss the merits of the work.

Quarter Grades: The numerical percentage ranges I use follow:

A: 89.5-100.0+ B: 79.5-89.49 C: 69.5-79.49 D: 59.5-69.49 F: 0-59.49

Semester Grades: The semester grade is based on the combination of the two quarter grade percentages and the final exams. Each quarter’s grade percentage is worth 45% of the semester grade. Final exams account for the additional 10% of the semester grade.

The numerical percentage ranges I use follow:

A+: 97.0-100.0+	A: 93.0-96.9	A-: 89.5-92.9
B+: 87.0-89.5	B: 83.0-86.9	B-: 79.5-82.9
C+: 77.0-79.5	C: 69.5-76.9	
D: 59.5-69.49	F: 0-59.49	

Assignment Categories:

1. Preparation/Participation
2. Essays: Multiple Drafted and In-Class
3. Homework/Class work
4. Quizzes/Exams
5. Presentations/Projects:
6. Portfolio

Extra Credit: You may earn *up to a half grade* increase of your original grade through extra credit. Extra credit opportunities include: participating in additional online discussions, special projects and enrichment activities, designated discussions, etc.

Participation Points:

Come prepared to ask questions, to participate productively in discussions and group work, and to take appropriate ownership of your own learning. Students earn participation points when they have raised their hand and contributed a meaningful response to a discussion; participated in class activity, or given a thoughtful written response to another student's paper or presentation. Participation points require that you be present to play. They cannot be made up except through extra credit provisions. You can be denied participation points if you fail to come prepared to class or interfere with others' learning.

LATE WORK:

If you have excused absences, all work may be made up with a one-day extension given for each day absent. If you have a planned absence, such as a field trip, you are expected to return to class with the work completed.

Otherwise-NO LATE WORK! (Did the bold capitals work?)

Major papers will have a due date and final date after which no papers will be accepted. Out of fairness to other students, I am NOT flexible about deadlines.

MAKE-UP TESTS AND QUIZZES:

Answer: tutorial! I announce deadlines for make-ups, but I do not personally remind you. Pop quizzes (aka a 1-2 question pop quiz given at the end of the period to see if you had a pulse that day) CANNOT be made up.

MLA FORMAT:

The MLA format is followed by colleges and universities nationwide in English classes. Learn it.

Large fonts and odd spacing "reads" as a lack of intelligence: use 12 point font, 1.5 spacing.

- MLA documentation is expected on all papers (visit my website for online help)
- All major papers and essay final drafts are to be word-processed.

NOTE TAKING:

Periodically you will be assessed on your notes and organization. Therefore, I suggest loose-leaf paper and a binder divided into 3 sections: 1) Notes 2) Articles 3) Quickwrites

PRESENTATIONS/FINAL EXAMS:

BE THERE! Presentations and Final Exams must be done on the due date. With sufficient notice, I will do my best to schedule around any circumstance that might impede you from doing so. **Group Presentations will NOT be delay due to absence of group members.**

CLASS RELEASE:

Whenever you need to leave the class, sign out on the class release sheet at the front of the classroom. Only one student will be allowed out of class at a time. Chronic "releases" may result in discussion and loss of privileges.

PLAGIARISM...:

...destroys your reputation and your grade. Plagiarism takes on many forms—from an improperly documented research paper to a paragraph or two borrowed from a friend's homework—regardless, **papers that are plagiarized receive an automatic "F."** You've been warned.

PORTFOLIO:

A folder kept in class in which you keep and log your assignments as they are returned to you. All major papers will be stowed in your portfolio where you will chart your own progress and mastery of certain skills. Portfolios are returned to you at the end of the year.

PRINTER POLICY:

If you can't print at home, plan to arrive at school 10 minutes early to print in the library or forgetaboutit. Avoid stress and arrive prepared. *FYI--College classrooms don't even have staplers, much less printers.

PARENTS:

They have a right to care about you, your progress, and your grades. I use Aeries.net, so they are able to chart your progress as you do, but in an effort to insure that you are harnessing the responsibility and autonomy needed to survive in college, you will be my first line of communication. Should we need a parent-teacher conference, plan on attending—it's my policy.

PROTOCOL:

Students are expected to use tutorial period to check grades, seek clarification on assignments, make up tests, and receive work for independent study or field trip absences. A quick query can be made via email, but I have another job: Mommy. So don't expect a same day response if it's after 7 pm.—I'm on mom duty!

SIMULATIONS:

In addition to the college-level reading and expectations, there will be two other simulations of your future college experience: 1) A reader will be hired periodically to evaluate papers. 2) Grades will be posted alongside "this is your grade in college"-- minus all of the homework and daily participation. You will obviously receive the high school grade, but be apprised of the difference between how grades are calculated in college vs. high school.

TARDY POLICY:

Excused or not, after the first two tardies of each semester, being late costs you: desk duty, a latte, or participation points—instructor's choice. Tardy absent? Participation points are lost.

WRITING WORKSHOPS:

Modeled after a college writing workshop, students will be expected to share their written work in groups for peer editing, proofreading, and assessment.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

You may need one or two...or twelve. I have a protocol for requesting letters, so please pay attention to that particular class lesson if you think you might need one. My letters are uniquely written for you, so time is of the essence.

Learning Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, *please contact me as soon as possible.*

*Exceptions to these policies may be granted at the discretion of the instructor and only for the most compelling, documented reasons.

After you have earned the privilege, I look forward to seeing you toss your cap on May 29, 2014.

