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ENGLISH 12 – E.R.W.C.
Expository Reading and Writing Course
Department of English
Analay 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? Allow me an apt analogy: 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. *But “resting” does not mean you are simply waiting around for the next chapter...or to be eaten by the big, bad world.* Oh, no! Your mind should be percolating; your eyes should see things anew; your hands should be highlighting, writing, and typing away. Whether you are off to Oxford, The University of Georgia, Chico, SRJC (all of which I attended), 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 (ERWC) 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.

Units of Study

Semester One

Unit 1 Life After High School: “Real Writing” and The College Application/ Scholarships

Unit 2: Rhetoric of the Op-Ed Page: Ethos, Pathos, Logos/Letters to Editor

Unit 3: The Value of Life: *Frankenstein*

Unit 4: Theory, Theory, Theory: *Heart of Darkness*

Semester Two

Unit 1: Social Issues: Researched Argument Project (aka Synthesis Paper)

Unit 2: Language, Gender and Power: *MacBeth*

Unit 3: Longing to Communicate: *Catcher in the Rye*

Unit 4: Reflections: Reviewing Four Years of High School

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

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.

HOMEWORK

NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED! Please do not ask; look to extra credit opportunities to make up points missed. Homework is due at the beginning of the period.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

A tentative schedule of assignments will be posted on Ms. Maxson’s website and handed out. This schedule will be handed out in the first week of each quarter. Additional homework assignments or changes to the schedule will be written on the board and verbally explained.

GRADES:

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

- 1) Exceeds expectations and surprises (A/5 pts in 5 pt. scale/90+)
- 2) Meets standards consistently and exceeds at times (B/4 pts in 5 pt scale/80+)
- 3) Meets the standard and offers expected or typical response (C/3.5 pts in 5 pt scale/70+)
- 3) Approaching proficiency (D/3 pts in 5 pt scale/60+)
- 4) Deficient (F/1-2 pts in 5 pt scale) Yes, I do give “Fs” for work that does not mean the standard. Just doing it is not enough.

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.



Allusion to *The Heart of Darkness*? Or English 12?

QUARTER GRADES ARE PROGRESS REPORTS. For quarter grades, I use the following numerical percentage ranges:

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 MATTER: Semester grades are cumulative. Although not all of your grades will be displayed on Aeries at all times, each factors into your overall semester grade.

The numerical percentage ranges I use for semester grades follow (Yes, I curve up):

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: (helpful to understand what is assessed but mean little else)

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

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Most assignments are meant to demonstrate a common core standard for English Language Arts. Certain assignments will be clearly defined in terms of Common Core Standards. Use the following link to see the Common Core Standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>

EXTRA CREDIT

You may earn up to a half grade increase (5%) of your original grade through extra credit. Extra credit opportunities include: participating in 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. Monday class is worth 5 pts/ Blocks worth 10 pts. *Participation points require that you be present to play. They cannot be made up except through completing extra credit assignments. If you miss class for a school-sanctioned field trip, AP exam, or another situation with Ms. Maxson's PRIOR approval, you may be able to earn participation points back IF and only IF you attend the next tutorial with all homework in hand AND ready to complete any work missed within tutorial.* Quarter 4 is dominated by participation points, so be aware that your attendance is paramount in order to attend graduation ceremonies on June 2nd.

You can be denied participation points if you fail to come prepared to class or interfere with others' learning.

EXAMS AND QUIZZES, Make-up and otherwise:

Fair warning: if I tell you the components of an exam, allow you to have book and notes available to you during the exam: BE PREPARED! It's crunch time! Expectations will be high and your time will be limited. You are expected to be prepared for a mental (and digital) sprint to the finish line of that exam.

Regarding Make-up quizzes: Answer: Tutorial Tuesday/Thursday--that's it! Because I have other responsibilities, I am not available before or after school on MTWF. You are expected to make up any missed quizzes the NEXT tutorial or lose the points. Like participation, 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. Guess when most of those happen? Quarter 4, yes.

MLA FORMAT:

MLA format is followed by colleges and universities worldwide in English classes. Learn it. Large fonts and odd spacing "read" as a lack of intelligence. Two

exceptions: **please use 11 point font, 1.5 spacing.**

- MLA documentation required on all papers (see Purdue's Online Writing Lab for 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 or receive a “0”. With **sufficient** notice, I will do my best to schedule around conflicts. *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 “0”. I use turnitin.com as a means for you to check your documentation.

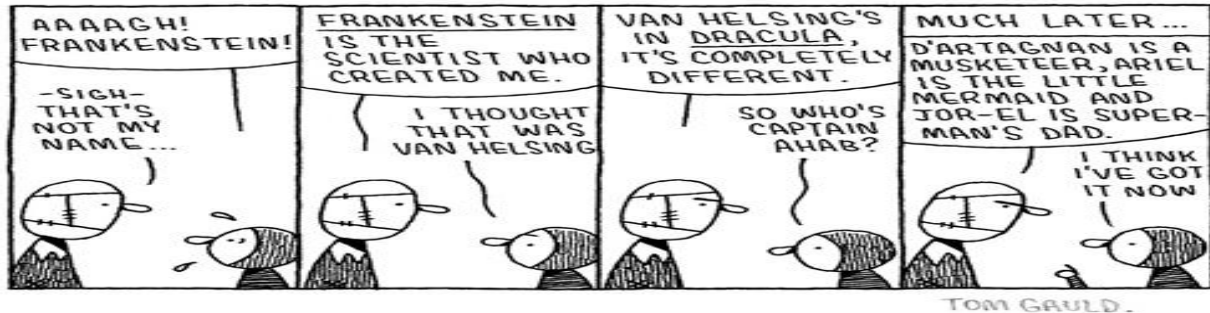
PORTFOLIO:

Periodically, you are required to submit a contest, scholarship, or public writing assignment to your portfolio. Those submissions can be scholarship essays, college applications, poetry contests, writing to the newspaper, etc. Ms. Maxson will offer you possibilities at the beginning of the year. Your portfolio will be assessed at least once a semester.

Additionally, 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.

ONE PAGERS:

Often, though primarily the first semester, you will be asked to submit a one typed page of writing in which you demonstrate one isolated skill such as correctly using capitals or commas--this is also your opportunity to creatively write poetry, shorts, or stories. These pages are submitted on Mondays, peer assessed, and focus on your



ability to demonstrate the previous week's skill *and personal creativity*.

TECHNOLOGY:

In an effort to minimize misunderstandings and tech problems, I require you to use **Google Drive** for your documents, presentations (unless you are savvy with Prezi). I will not accept any excuses that my computer ate my homework. If it is on Google Drive, it is on Drive; you can access it anywhere, you can upload it to turnitin.com, and it eliminates excuses.

We will also sign up for FIVE technology services:

1) Aeries.net for Grades.

--I do not update grades on a regular basis. Grades will be posted prior to school deadlines for grades; approximately every 6 weeks or so.

2) Reminder 101 for Emergency Messages ONLY.

--If I will suddenly be out with a sick child, I will contact YOU with the lesson plan. If I need to postpone an assignment, I will contact you.

2) Quia.com for Exams

--make sure your hit the web page when entering to take a new exam.

3) Turnitin.com for Papers and Online Responses

--do not put your name at the top on drafts, if you wish to remain anonymous to peer reviewers.

--Make sure your paper is submitted correctly--that mistake can cost you.

4) Noodletools for research

MAKE SURE YOU KEEP ALL OF YOUR LOG-IN and PASSWORD Information

PRINTER POLICY:

If you can't print at home, plan to arrive at school 10 minutes early to print in the library or during break at the computer lab. My room is not equipped with a student computer/printer. Moreover, I will not tolerate students coming in late to class because they had to print their

papers. Tardies on days when assignments are due mean “o” on those assignments. 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 meeting, plan on attending—it’ s my policy.

QUESTIONS ABOUT GRADES/PROTOCOL:

Students are expected to use Aeries.net to check grades. If you find a problem with your grade or we have discussed a personal issue regarding a grade (for example, turnitin.com has assigned you to review an incomplete paper, so I ask you to read someone’s essay in hard copy), you should EMAIL me with an account of the situation or question, and I will correct the grade and/or email you my response in return.

ESSAY FEEDBACK

I have been addressing students writing for 20+ years and I have learned a few things: My writing instruction is seldom dogmatic or prescriptive; it is holistic and class-oriented. You will need to apply the critiques given to model essays to your own writing. My feedback/assessment is given on rubrics which are given when the assignment is assigned. They detail strengths and weaknesses. If you wish to have early or personal feedback on your writing, you must make the effort to come see me for a one-on-one conference. Research shows that students often misunderstand the written feedback given on their papers, so I advise that you spend TEN quiet minutes with me, which will do more for your writing than 40 minutes of my inking up your paper.

WRITING LAB

Because I do not believe writing all over your papers, in isolation, yields much success with improving writing, I offer a weekly writing lab beyond tutorial (tutorial is often hijacked by absent students seeking make up work). Unlike tutorial, you must sign up the previous week for a Writing Lab slot and submit your draft to me one full day prior to meeting, so plan ahead. **Writing Lab Times include: Wednesday lunch, selected Thursdays 2:30-4 and by appt.**

CONFUSED OR NEED TO HAVE SPECIAL MODIFICATIONS?

To seek clarification on assignments, make up tests, and receive work for independent study or field trip absences, see me at Tutorial Tuesday/Thursday or by appt. 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 5 pm.—I’ m on mom duty!

“REAL” WRITING:

In your portfolio, you will “house” monthly writing assignments that require an authentic audience (public submission). Submissions may be college or scholarship essays, letters of intent for a job application, poetry contests, speech contests, fiction and nonfiction writing contests, letters to the editor/government official. One submission may be an interpersonal letter such as a letter of gratitude. Those submissions will not be assessed on “winning,” but on the clarity, voice, development/organization, language conventions, and meeting any stated requirements.

SIMULATIONS:

In addition to the college-level reading and expectations, there may 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, tardies will cost you: (a latte does help assuage the situation) Participation points. Tardy absent? Participation points are lost and possibly a menial “clean up” task given.

WRITING WORKSHOPS:

Modeled after a college writing workshop, students will be expected to share their written work in self-selected groups for peer editing, proofreading, and assessment (in rare instances, I may have to place you with another group).. Drafts and one-pagers will be reviewed by peers.



LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

You may need one or two...or twelve. I have a protocol for requesting letters. Counseling department has a form that I require before I will agree to write your letter. 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.

MAXSON'S PECCADILLOES and PET PEEVES

1. Excuses! In *The Princess Bride*, the character Wesley states, "We are men of action." Man, woman, beast or otherwise, be a person of action. No excuses!
2. Tardies--In addition to being official marked tardy, you will receive no credit for work missed AND do not ask me to review what you missed when you come in. Lattes may be good compensation for your offense.
3. "Slippery fish"--rules, rules, rules--who needs them. Of course you are special; you ALL are. But you, well *you* are above the rules. And you do not have an excuse; you have a reason. You *need* those homework points. **No late work means no late work.** Please do not ask or test me on this point. I offer several extra credit assignments every quarter--and those are the means to improving your grade.
4. Cell phones! Have you seen the tv show, "Hoarders"? Guess what is inside all of Ms. Maxson's cabinets--stacks and stacks of former students' cell phones. So unless you want to add to Ms. Maxson's hoard, you should keep your phone out of sight. There will be times when I will direct those who have one to use it for a very specific educational purpose. I follow AHS policy on cell phone "captures."
5. Always have a pen at the ready and use MLA—assignments written in pencil receive a randomly assigned deduction (1 pts to 50% of the assignment).
6. Raise your hand and wait to be called on--before speaking.
7. Print your paper prior to the first bell of your class. **Asking me after the bell whether you can run quickly to the library will result in a "0" on that assignment.** (Period 4 has exemption to this rule. Ask me.)
8. Listen respectfully to the teacher and your classmates.
9. **Do not** do homework for this class or other classes during instruction time. Tutorial and free periods are the time, not my class.
10. 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.
11. Academic Honesty, Please! Don' t even think about copying homework—even for another class—this is a serious breach of academic integrity and will not be tolerated.
12. If you **MUST** eat, be discreet! And by all means, clean up after yourself.
13. Discretion and courtesy: despite our desire for the world to be fair, it often is not. I will always strive to treat you equitably---despite my jokes that lattes will get you anything. *Please do me the courtesy of discussing concerns and issues with me first.*

**Referrals for repeat or egregious offenders.



After you have earned the privilege, I look forward to seeing you toss your cap on JUNE 2, 2017.

STANDARD PRACTICES:

- Yes, write on the back of the page--as long as your pen doesn't bleed through.
- No, you do not need to skip lines when you write--except between quickwrites.
- Yes, keep all the drafts of your work. Organize them most recent on front to least recent in the back EXCEPT the rubric which should be facing out & on the back (Like an Oreo!)
- Yes, the rubric should always be on the back of your essays--facing outward.
- Yes, use pen and MLA heading unless told otherwise. Type your papers whenever possible. Use MLA format for all typed papers unless told otherwise.
- Yes, papers should be turned into the tray unless told otherwise.
- No, you should not turn make up work in the regular period tray; see me for or with ANY ASSIGNMENT not turned in at the originally assigned time.

Possible Real Writing Opportunities:

- <http://www.teenink.com/Contests> (monthly)
- <http://www.zinch.com/scholarships> (Monthly)
- [John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest](#) (January 6th)
- <http://www.adlit.org/fun/?catid=861>
- <http://www.ncte.org/awards/student>
- http://www.cateweb.org/creative_writing/creative_writing.htm
- https://www.afsa.org/essay_contest.aspx
- <http://fqxi.org/community/essay>
- Bulwer-Lytton Short Entry Contest: <http://www.bulwer-lytton.com/>
- <http://www.pw.org/grants>