

**Department:** English

**Course Name:** Introduction to Composition and Literature

**Course Description:**

This course builds upon the skills students have learned in middle school, including vocabulary, grammar, literature, and study skills. Ultimately, all course work relates to making them more efficient writers. During the first semester, their writing evolves from a natural progression of writing the sentence, to the paragraph, to the short essay, to the research paper, with an emphasis on being original and avoiding plagiarism. Students write essays in a variety of rhetorical modes: narration, description, illustration, process analysis, compare/contrast, classification/division, definition, and cause and effect. Literature is primarily non-fiction with a novel unit at the end of the semester. During the second semester, the emphasis switches from expository writing to literary analysis, argumentation, and persuasion. In addition, students will explore different modes of creative writing. Writing is based on selections from world literature encompassing mythology, Shakespearean drama, poetry, and contemporary short stories. Required of all ninth graders.

**Content:**

Vocabulary  
Grammar  
Narration  
Illustration  
Process Analysis  
Compare/Contrast  
Classification and Division  
Argumentation  
Satire  
World mythology  
Shakespearean drama  
Short story  
Poetry  
MLA research and writing

**Skills:**

Demonstrate knowledge that reflect a variety of genres of major periods, cultures and eras of literature.  
Read and comprehend poetry and prose  
Analyze character development  
Recognize universality and archetypes  
Analyze author purpose  
Identify Figurative Language and Literary terminology  
Identify plot elements  
Recognize and use commas  
Recognize and use titles  
Recognize and use punctuation  
Write informally  
Cite research sources  
Write an essay  
Clarify, support, and defend an argument  
Respond appropriately to informal class discussion/question answer sessions

Use presentation technology

Develop oral presentation skills (posture, volume, pace, articulation, eye contact) for a variety of rhetorical modes

**Text and Materials:**

Orwell, George, Animal Farm (Signet, 1996)

Shakespeare, William, Romeo and Juliet (Folger, 2011)

Reed, Daniel A., Vocabulary Power Plus for College and Career Readiness (Lvl 9). (Prestwick, 2014)

Articles and essays from a variety of sources

**Methods of Instruction:**

Lecture

Class Discussion

Demonstrations

Individual and group projects/research

Vocabulary exercises

Socratic seminars

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Essays

Tests

Quizzes

Homework

Group/individual projects

Oral presentation

Video Creation

