

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

