

Department: English
Course Name: English 8

Course Description:

English 8 is intended to be a challenging, highly interactive course which focuses on increasing students' skills in analyzing literature and substantiating those discoveries through written and verbal communication. Students will discover their own voice and writing style as together we explore themes of discrimination, social justice, and the American Dream. As the end of English 8 approaches, students will have gained a better understanding of their own beliefs and values, applied that knowledge to their reading and research, and demonstrated improved ability to defend their beliefs. Naturally, both vocabulary and grammar will be an integral part of class and homework time, and gains in those areas will be demonstrated through class discussion and writing. This course is a required course designed specifically to help students prepare for success as they enter the Upper School the next year.

Content:

Vocabulary
Punctuation
Verb Tenses
Paragraph Writing
Fiction and Non-fiction Texts
Literary Terminology
Voice & Style
Personal Narrative
Analytical Writing
Research Process
Anti-plagiarism
Outside Reading

Skills:

Read and comprehend poetry and prose
Identify plot elements
Identify story elements
Identify figurative language and literary terminology
Annotate text
Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of the piece
Recognize and use quotations
Recognize and use titles
Recognize and use capitalization
Recognize and use punctuation
Construct paragraphs
Write informally
Write formally
Proofread/Edit
Respond to literature
Write using sensory details
Cite research sources
Write a clearly stated thesis statement with an arguable idea

Format and construct an outline
Write using transition words
Paraphrase text
Identify reliable sources
Utilize elements of essay writing
Clarify, support and defend an argument
Analyze sources to determine their validity
Write a literary analysis
Respond to prompts
Synthesize sources
Employ growing vocabulary in speech and writing
Publish work digitally
Respond appropriately to informal class discussion/question answer sessions
Express an understanding and analysis of literature through oral presentations
Use presentation technology
Articulate and communicate complex ideas through discussion

Text and Materials:

Lee, Harper To Kill a Mockingbird (Grand Central Publishing, 1988)
Diaz, Alexandra The Only Road (Simon & Schuster, Inc., 2016)
Khan, Hena Amina's Voice (Simon & Schuster, Inc., 2017)
Essays from www.thisibelieve.org (NPR)
Op-Eds from The New York Times
Various iPad applications

Methods of Instruction:

Lecture
Modeling
Provision of exemplars
Class discussion and debate
Research
Small group discussion
Technology
Worksheet

Methods of Evaluation:

Quizzes/tests
Homework
Class work
Written bell ringers
Essays
Research project
Participation
Projects
Oral presentations & debates