**EXPECTATIONS FOR GENERAL ENGLISH 10 STUDENTS**

1. You should always be reading something for class. Reading is generally assigned a few days in advance to allow you time to read at your own pace and to ask questions before completing any work. Class time is occasionally given throughout the week as well, but you cannot depend solely on this to get the assignment read.

TIP: Break your reading up into chapters and focus on a little of it each night. After each page or two, write a brief summary of what you have read. Also, make sure to jot down any questions you may have and ASK me about them the next day either privately or in class. (If you have questions, the rest of the class probably does too!)

1. Study guides and other worksheets, when assigned, are usually due the day your reading is to be done. This is why you cannot wait until the last minute to read your assigned selection. Not only would this leave no time to get the work itself done, but there would also be no room for “error” (questions, computer failure, illnesses, or emergencies).

TIP: Look over the assignment BEFORE you start reading so you can see what is being asked. Then work on it as you read. You will find that many of the questions are discussed in class as we go! If you have questions about the reading or an assignment, ASK me in class (or email me) and then go back in to finish the work.

REMEMBER: Once we go over an assignment in class, I can no longer accept it for credit. However, if it is an assignment I am collecting to grade (or on Schoology or turnitin), you can still complete it and turn it in for late credit. (Of course, my late work grading policies would apply here.) If you are not sure whether you can turn something in, ask me!

1. Note taking will be an integral part of your success at both the high school and college levels (as well as being necessary in many careers). Therefore, it is necessary to take concise, organized notes for you to refer back to throughout your reading. These notes will cover the history of the work itself as well as literary elements and devices covered in each unit. Sometimes I will give guided notes, sometimes you will be on your own!

TIP: Knowing how to take good notes is a MUST! Copying word for word out of a book (or from another) is NOT notetaking. Like an onion, there are many layers to each unit you learn or book you read. You must decide which information you merely need to familiarize yourself with and where you need to “peel back the layers” and take a closer look at something. Once you find what you are looking for, there are many different ways to organize your information (paraphrasing, outlining, responding); you just need to find what works best for you. Refer to your handout on annotating for help.

1. You will get 20 vocabulary terms to learn at a time (broken down in sets of 10). You will be introduced to them through practice sheets which may be done in class or assigned for homework, and there will be a quiz on these words every two weeks (approximately). At the end of each quiz is a root and prefix/suffix section worth 4 points as well. And yes, spelling always counts!

TIP: Quizlet is a great tool to use for vocabulary because it allows you to print flashcards, play review games, and take practice tests.

If you ever get confused about what is being asked on *any test or quiz (of any kind)*, just ASK me about it, and I will help you in any way I can. Though I cannot give you an answer, I can clarify questions for you.

1. Group Work is utilized to allow students the opportunity to interact with each other regarding the material being learned. Sometimes a new perspective can help you to better understand something you didn’t before! Working with someone else also cuts your work in half. When group work is assigned, you must participate in the discussions!

TIP: Not everyone likes group work, so you don’t have to *complete* your work with anyone else if you feel you could be more productive on your own. You can discuss the material with your group but fill in your own answers, so you are solely responsible for your own grade.

Depending on the assignment, I may also offer you some additional time to get your work done since you have no one to share the workload with. This will be done at my discretion and is something you and I must set up in advance!

1. Informal journals and group work/projects are all opportunities for you to show me what you know about the reading. *Similar to a math class where you must show your work, you must “show” me that you not only read and understand the material, but that you can break it down and analyze it as well.* I will never have you do “busy work.” Every assignment I give (and every point I take off) is to help you to see something that will become very important later.

TIP: When working on journals or group work of any kind, ask me to look over it before turning it in. With a quick glance I can tell you whether or not you are on the right track or whether you need to go in a different direction. (I can suggest more elaboration or give page numbers to double check answers, for example.) If I see that you are working hard but need some additional time, I can grant that to you. However, if you turn in something half done or don’t utilize your class time well, I have no choice but to grade what you have at the end of the period.

1. Essays can be among the most challenging things for students to write because you must go beyond basic comprehension of the story. They ask you to read between the lines and explain the behavior of the characters, analyze how the setting affects the mood of the story, identify the connections between literature and life (tone), etc... In 10th grade, more emphasis will be placed on supporting your opinions with specific quotes and page numbers from your reading selection. You must also pay particular attention to the format and organization of your paper. After all, insightful ideas can get lost in a disorganized or wordy paper!

TIP: Rough drafts for most writing assignments are optional (but HIGHLY encouraged). Although I won’t correct every error for you, I will point out areas of concern and make suggestions for improvement. It *does not* automatically guarantee you an A, but students who turn in a draft typically score significantly higher than those who don’t!

I am here to help you be successful, but I also recognize you as an individual and a maturing young adult who is learning to be independent and who is responsible for his/her own education. If you don’t come to me for help, I will assume you don’t need or want it. However, if you come to me with questions and if you make an honest attempt to complete your assignments to the best of your ability, I will do my best to give you the tools you need to succeed. **My door is ALWAYS open!**