English 10: 2017-2018

Mrs. Peat

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***“You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives.”  ~Clay P. Bedford***

English 10 is designed to offer students an understanding of all literary genres and will explore all levels of communication including writing, speech, literature, grammar, and vocabulary. Students will learn to read critically and closely as they apply elements of analysis to novels, short stories, drama, and poetry as well as to develop and polish composition skills by writing in various modes.

**CLASS RULES and COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

* BE PREPARED. You must *always* bring your binder, textbook/novel, homework, and a writing utensil with you to class. When the bell rings, you should be in your seat and ready for class to begin. (This means you should sharpen your pencils and get out your work BEFORE class begins.)
* BE COURTEOUS. Talking out, being out of your seat for any reason (especially while I am teaching), bullying of any kind, and vulgar or derogatory language will not be permitted. (This also includes vulgar sayings or drawings on your school work. Be aware that such work will be confiscated and subject to disciplinary action in addition to receiving a 0.)
	+ Always bring something to do with you each day in case you have extra time between assignments. This is NOT to be used as a social hour. Even whispering is distracting to those around you!
	+ If you need to sharpen a pencil or throw something away, please do so before or after class. (At the very least, wait until I am done teaching!)
	+ If I am still speaking at the end of the period, remain seated. I will dismiss you, not the bell. (This also means you shouldn’t start packing up while I’m still going over information!)
* BE NEAT about everything! You are responsible for your novels and worksheets, so handle them with care. Also keep in mind that this classroom is my home and should, therefore, be treated with respect. Do not deface your desk or any other area of the room, and throw your garbage in the trash where it belongs.
	+ Neatness in writing is a must. **If I can’t read your writing, it doesn’t count!** Your assignments should always be legible, organized, and follow the format you were given. Failure to do these things will result in the assignment being given back to you to *redo for late credit.*
* **NO CELL PHONES!** These may only be used *at the teacher’s discretion.* If your phone is out (even sitting on your desk) at any other time after the bell has rung to start class, ***I will confiscate it****!*  (Likewise, my room is not a charging station. If I find phones lying around, I will take them!) If this happens 3+ times in a nine weeks, a call will be made home and an office referral will be made.
* Restroom breaks should be taken during study halls, lunch, or between periods, NOT during my class. If it cannot wait, I will allow you to use the restroom during the last few minutes of class. *Misusing or overuse of the hall pass will result in a loss of participation points.*
* If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get any missed work (including making up tests). You have the same number of days absent to complete the work without a penalty. *If you are in school but not in class, you are still responsible for turning in your work ON TIME. Should you not get or not complete an assignment, it will be considered late.* Upon returning to school, check the make-up work folder in the back of the room. Turn any “late” work in to the bin on my desk (regardless of whether I am in the room or at school that day).

**Binder (for English only)**

* The binder will be checked at least once per nine weeks for a grade. (This may be unannounced and can happen at any time.) It must divided into 4 distinct sections with dividers. (Literature, Vocabulary, Keystone Prep (Grammar and Writing), and Graded Work)
	+ \*In the front, place this course syllabus. You should *always* have it to refer to!

**Writing**

* A variety of essays will be assigned this year. These may be narrative, persuasive, or analytical. Students will have opportunities for creative writing.
	+ **I will proofread any essay in advance. Although this is based on a student’s initiative and is not required, students who draft essays naturally tend to receive better grades.**
* MLA(Modern Language Association) format is to be used for all writings.
* For any questions on writing, refer to the Freeport Writing Guide, found on the district website or in print.
* A formal research paper will be assigned.
* Freeport High School uses **turnitin.com** to help students avoid plagiarism. All essays (as well as several less formal writings and/or assignments) must be uploaded to turnitin.com by the given due date, AND a hard copy must also be submitted. **No essays will be graded without submission to turnitin.com first!**
* Writing criteria will always include grammar, focus, content, style, and organization.

**Speech**

* Expect several formal, independent speeches this year.
* Students will be getting out of their seats to present something informally at various times throughout the year. These presentations could be alone or with a small group.

**Literature**

* Selections from Holt’s *Elements of Literature*.
* Supplemental readings

Reginald Rose *Twelve Angry Men* Elie Wiesel *Night*

Mitch Albom *Tuesdays with Morrie* John Steinbeck *Of Mice and Men*

William Shakespeare *Julius Caesar*

* Independent Choice Novels
* Short Stories, poetry, fiction, and nonfiction will also be explored in class.
* There will *always* be a culminating test, project, and or essay.
* Some class time is generally given each week for completing reading and homework assignments, but you should expect to do a good portion of the reading on your own time as well.

**Grammar**

* Grammar will be taught in relation to writing and speaking. Concepts of grammar found on standardized tests will also be covered.
	+ **The use of proper grammar when in class or completing work is a MUST!** *You will lose up to 5 points on any assignment (worksheet, essay, test, etc…) where you repeatedly use improper grammar.* This includes forgetting to capitalize sentences or proper nouns, missing or misusing punctuation, using “text speak,” fragments, subject-verb agreement errors, using improper or shifting verb tenses, and misusing words (there vs their for example).
* Specific lessons include (but are not limited to) subject verb and pronoun antecedent agreement, fragments and run on sentences, semi colons and colons.
* Culminating quizzes and tests may be given.
* Online grammar practice using Study Island

**Vocabulary**

* Expect vocabulary tests approximately every 2 weeks.
* Quizlet.com already has these words as online flashcards. To study using Quizlet, log in to your account. Then click “Language and Vocabulary” and “English.” Next, type in *Sadler Oxford Vocabulary Workshop: Level E.* Choose “Unit 1” and begin studying!
* Tests will evaluate spelling, definitions, synonyms, antonyms, writing, parts of speech, and review words from the previous tests.

**Journals**

* Students will write regular journal entries of varying lengths and point values regarding the topics we are reading and discussing in class. These journals are to be kept in my room and will be checked (graded) periodically throughout each nine weeks. Grades are based on completeness, thoughtfulness, and length.
	+ If you are absent on a day we do a journal writing activity, it is your responsibility to see me to get caught up!!!

**Keystone Prep**

* In May of 2018, all sophomores will be taking the Pennsylvania Keystone Literature Exam. Students need to pass this test to graduate. The test covers vocabulary, literary terms, critical readings of both fiction and nonfiction, and writing. We will be preparing for this all year. Students can score advanced, proficient, basic, or below basic. In order to pass, students must score advanced (1584-1800) or proficient (1500-1583).
* Beginning the 2nd nine weeks, students will be assigned **weekly Study Island activities online FOR HOMEWORK**. These are GRADED assignments which typically run from November into May. Additional graded activities will be done in class periodically as well. More information about this will be distributed later in the first nine weeks. The content of these activities mirrors the content on the Literature Keystone test. In May of 2016, 88% of all Freeport sophomores passed the Literature Keystone!

**The best way for students to prepare is just to read. Read all of the assigned work and find books or articles to read for pleasure. It’s a reading test, so READ!**

**GRADING**

91-100 A

81-90 B

70-80 C

60-69 D

00-59 F

* You are responsible for keeping track of your grades each nine weeks. Keep all of your graded and returned work in the Graded Work section of your binder. You should also check Power School regularly. If you have any questions regarding your grades, please see me after class, before or after school, or during my plan period (5-10 or 6).
	+ All students must maintain *at least a 60% for the year* to pass English 10.
* Late work that is worth (up to) 20 points not be accepted if it is not complete at the time it is due. (**Any assignment not complete once the bell rings to begin class is considered not done and, therefore, late.)** Assignments worth 20-50 points will lose 25% for every day they are late and will not be accepted after the third day. Projects and compositions of 50+ points will lose 10% per day late and will not be accepted after 5 days.
	+ Computer or printer failure is *NOT* a valid excuse for not completing or turning in an assignment. Most assignments that need to be typed are assigned far enough in advance that we can make arrangements to get the work done during school if you don’t have access to a computer a home. You merely need to set this up with me when the work is assigned. Additionally, computer failure at home is only an issue if you wait until the last minute to get the work done, so don’t procrastinate! If you do hit a snag while working, like your printer jamming or running out of ink, you can always email me the assignment. However, this should be the exception and not the norm.
* **Once we go over work in class, you may NO LONGER turn it in for credit, regardless of the point value.** You may, however, turn in collected assignments for late credit.
* Any work that has been copied (in full or in part) from another sources will automatically receive a 0. (If the work was copied from another student, he/she will also receive a 0.)
	+ Merely changing a few words of a sentence but still using the majority of another person’s ideas and representing them as your own is still plagiarism!
	+ Any work turned in on a sheet other than the one assigned will not be accepted since this implies the work was copied from another source. If you lose a worksheet or packet, see me immediately for a new copy. (This means PRIOR to class, not when you walk in the door.)

* Talking while testing will not be tolerated. Not only does this encourage cheating, but it is very distracting to those students who are still working. Anyone talking during any graded test/assignment will be given a warning. If this behavior continues, you may be required to retake an adapted (more challenging) version of the test or be sent to the office and given a 0.
* A total of 50 points *per nine weeks* will be given for class participation (one point per day). If a student comes to class unprepared or if he/she is caught violating any of the class rules, the point for that day will be deducted.

**Welcome back and have a great year!**