

# English I

Ms. Alaina Dawson

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## Course Overview

English I is composed of two major areas of study: grammar and writing, and textual analysis. Because of this, English I uses a variety of texts spanning various formats and genres as a vehicle to teach functional skills such as: reading for information, forming opinions, effective communication, and more.

### **I. Supplies**

Bring these supplies in as soon as possible.

- Binder or Folder
- Pencils and Highlighters
- Notebook Paper
- Post-It Notes

### **II. Units of Study**

- Grammar and Vocabulary
- Writing Basics/Life Skills
- Short Stories
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- Poetry
- Effective Test-Taking

*\*Selections are subject to change based on school schedules, closures, availability, etc.\**

### **III. Grading - The percentile break-down for grade weight in as follows:**

- **Tests/Projects** **25%**  
This category includes quizzes, tests, projects, and other larger assignments
- **Classwork/Homework** **60%**  
This category includes grammar sheets, in-class activities, and other classwork
- **Reoccurring Assignments** **15%**  
This category includes daily questions and AOWs

#### IV. Reoccurring Assignments

**Daily Questions** – As students enter the classroom every day, they will be expected to participate in a brief writing warmup. Each day they will be given a new prompt on the board they must respond to. This work will be graded weekly.

**AOWs** –Every Monday, students will be assigned an Article of the Week. AOWs will require students to read and annotate a 1-2-page article. After which, they will complete a short assignment in response to the information they learned.

#### V. Grammar and Vocabulary

English I students will complete a grammar or vocabulary activity most days of the week. Activities may range from interactive games, editing and proofreading practice, implementation exercises, quizzes, and more.

#### VI. Grading Policy

Tuscola's grading schedule is broken down into the four grading periods listed below:

1. First 9-weeks progress report (halfway through the first quarter)
2. First 9 weeks report card (end of first quarter)
3. Second 9-weeks progress report (halfway through the second quarter)
4. Second 9-weeks report card (end of second quarter)

In my classroom, students are expected to turn in assignments by the given due date. However, I do understand that there are exceptions to this and circumstances outside of students' control. Because of this, students are given class time to complete missing assignments BEFORE progress reports and report cards are printed. I do my best to check in with students about their grades as often as I can, but it is ultimately up to them to complete assignments in a timely manner. If there are extenuating circumstances or obstacles that cause a student to be unable to complete work before the due date, I will gladly work with them as long as I am kept informed. **Once the report cards for each quarter are finalized and printed, I am unable to adjust those grades. Students will be notified when these deadlines are approaching.**

If you have any questions about your student's performance or need clarification on the policy, please email me at [adawson@haywood.k12.nc.us](mailto:adawson@haywood.k12.nc.us)

## VII. Attendance Policy

Students are allotted up to 6 absences per class period. Once students reach their 7th absence, they must complete attendance recovery. Please remember that absences are counted for each individual class period.

**Example:** If your student is present for first, second, and third period every day, but misses 7 days in fourth period, they must complete 1.5 hours of attendance recovery.

**Example:** If your student misses 7 total days in all classes, they must complete 6 hours attendance recovery. 1.5 hours per class.

Once a student reaches their 10th absence in a class, they will have to appeal to Tuscola's Attendance Committee. According to the policy, it is also possible for the student to receive no credit for a course if the attendance problem continues.

Students are able to make up their time by signing up for attendance recovery sessions through the office, or they may make up time during lunch, after school, or through additional assignments at the discretion of their teacher.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** All absences count towards attendance recovery whether they are excused or not. Even if your student has a great reason for being absent, they are still responsible for making up the time they missed. Excused absences are taken into consideration during the appeal process, but do not exempt students from recovering their time.

Absence Number	Consequence
7	Attendance Recovery (1.5 Hours)
8	Attendance Recovery (+1.5 Hours)
9	Attendance Recovery (+1.5 Hours)
10+	File an Appeal Form

If you have any questions about your student's attendance or need clarification on the policies, please email our data manager, Amanda Long, at [amlong@haywood.k12.nc.us](mailto:amlong@haywood.k12.nc.us)

## VIII. Code of Conduct

All students are expected to behave in a way that is respectful to the teacher, themselves, and their peers. To complete this goal, students will be expected to abide by the following rules:

1. **Be prepared.** Have your charged Chromebook/laptop, homework, and necessary materials when you walk into class.
2. **Be respectful.** Speak with kindness. Derogatory, insulting, or violent language is not allowed in my classroom and will incur consequences.
3. **Keep your devices away.** When you enter class, put your silenced phone in the pockets at the front of the room. AirPods, headphones, gaming devices, and other electronic devices should be put away. They are not necessary for the learning environment and will be confiscated if need be.
4. **Take ownership of your learning.** Set goals. Build your skills. Try even when it is difficult. Your effort and willingness to work will determine your performance.
5. **Complete assignments on time.** I do not accept late work without prior communication. I provide ample time in/out of class to complete assignments. If you are unable to complete an assignment on time, it is your responsibility to speak to me or email me BEFORE the assignment is late.
6. **Ask for help.** I will do my best to help and guide you BUT I can only help you if I know you need or want it. Do not hesitate to reach out!
7. **Do your own work.** This is not a class in *How to Google What Other People Have Said*. Individual assignments are expected to be completed individually, from your own brain. If an assignment allows you to use ideas from other students or from the internet, give credit to where those ideas came from!

**Student**, please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand this syllabus.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Guardian**, please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand this syllabus.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guardian printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**\*This page must be SIGNED & RETURNED and will be graded. Failure to sign and return this page will result in a zero in the gradebook\***