

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
- Notebook Paper
- Pencils, Highlighters, and/or Pens
- Chromebook
- Post-It Notes

II. Units of Study

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

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

III. Reoccurring Assignments

It is important to recognize that part of the reason students struggle with reading is because they lack prior knowledge and background. They can decode the words, but the words remain meaningless without a foundation of knowledge. To help build students' prior knowledge, students will be assigned an Article of the Week (AOW) every Monday.

AOWs – AOWs will require students to read and annotate a 1-2 page article each week. After which, they will submit a short, written response summarizing the article and their opinion on the topic presented.

IV. Grammar and Vocabulary

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

V. Missing and Late Work

All assignments are expected to be completed and turned in on the designated due date. If you are absent, be sure to email your work or turn in via Google Classroom. If you know ahead of time that you will be absent, turn it in before you leave or discuss the possibility of an extension with the teacher. Work that is turned in late without prior discussion or verifiable reasoning will receive a zero.

Note: Students will be given an opportunity to make up missing work before each progress/grade report comes out. After progress/grade reports are sent home, any missing work due during that period will remain a zero for the duration of the semester.

VI. Grading

The percentile break-down for grade weight in as follows:

- **Tests/Projects** **30%**
Tests and projects are the larger assignments throughout the semester. These will include assignments such as presentations, essays, or other end-of-unit activities.
- **Classwork/Homework** **60%**
This category includes grammar sheets, in-class activities, quizzes, and other smaller assignments.
- **Reoccurring Assignments** **10%**
Reoccurring assignments such as Article of the Week or Book of the Month fall into this category.

VII. 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, airpods, and/or other devices 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 efforts will determine what you learn in this class.
5. **Complete assignments on time.** I do not accept late work without prior communication. I do my best to 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 the help. 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