



Classroom Policies and Guidelines 2010-2011

Ms. Scott
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Welcome to Ninth-Grade English!

In this class we will work each day to make you a clearer thinker, a more adept reader, and a more effective communicator. A major focus will be placed on developing your writing skills, and you will practice many types of academic writing. The critical key to success is your willingness to think creatively and critically, and to put in the time necessary to communicate your ideas clearly and effectively. If you prepare conscientiously for class and work hard in class, you **will** be successful in this course.

Materials

Every day you will be expected to have the following when you come to class:

- ◆ A notebook or loose leaf for class notes
- ◆ Reading text(s) and handouts for the unit we are working on
- ◆ A pen (blue or black ink) and/or pencil (sharpened before class begins)
- ◆ A yellow highlighter
- ◆ A 3-ring binder in which to store all handouts and graded assignments.

In addition, at home you should always have a stapler, spare ink cartridge, and sufficient paper for typed assignments.

Expectations

- ◆ This course should challenge you. I expect to work hard; you should too.
- ◆ You are expected to make positive contributions to class discussions and activities. Asking relevant questions and explaining and defending your viewpoint are some ways in which you can make a positive contribution.
- ◆ You are expected to behave in a respectful and mature manner. This means listening attentively to those who are speaking, and disagreeing respectfully when you do not agree with a point that is made. It also means observing the SHHS Respect Statement that is posted in our classroom. Persistent disrespectful or inattentive behavior will affect your class participation grade.
- ◆ Take notes on all class discussions; all information covered in class and class readings is fair game for tests and quizzes.
- ◆ Homework will be assigned every day and posted on the whiteboard and class Website. Generally no credit will be given for late homework. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make up any missed work by reviewing the class Website or seeing me during 5th block.
- ◆ Expect pop (unannounced) quizzes on work covered in class or assigned for homework.
- ◆ Long-term projects will be assigned. You will be dropped a grade for each day that a long-term assignment is late.
- ◆ Group activities require maturity and focus. If I observe that you are off-task in such activities, you may be asked to work alone.
- ◆ Do not expect to visit the bathroom during class. Plan to take care of all lavatory concerns before or after class.
- ◆ You are expected to be silent and attentive during any announcements over the PA system.
- ◆ The bell does not dismiss the class; I do. Do not pack up or leave your seats until you are dismissed by me.

Academic Honesty

- ◆ Anything submitted as your own individual work that is not, in fact, your own individual work will be considered plagiarism. This includes copying answers on tests, copying homework assignments, and using any material or ideas from the Internet or texts without giving credit to your source. Homework assignments should be your original and *individual* work; assignments that appear to have been copied because of suspiciously identical answers will require a student-teacher conference and may result in loss of credit for the assignment. **Actively assisting another student in the copying of homework** or test answers is also considered academic dishonesty. Students who are found to have engaged in plagiarism or academic dishonesty will receive a zero for the assignment, with no opportunity to make up the work. Parents, counselors, and school administration may also be contacted, and further disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with school policies on academic honesty.

Grades

Your grade for this class will be based on the total number of points that you earn for the following:

- ◆ Vocabulary, grammar, and reading-content quizzes
- ◆ Journals & homework
- ◆ Formal papers
- ◆ Unit tests
- ◆ In-class essays
- ◆ Class participation and cooperation (counts as a major grade)
- ◆ Group presentations
- ◆ Final exam (10% of final grade)

Averages are calculated by dividing the total points earned by the maximum number of possible points. The school scale is used to determine grades: A (90% and above), B (80% and above), C (70% and above), D (60% and above), and F (59% and below).

Absence from class

Regular attendance is essential for success in school. Excessive absences, even when excused, affect grades, including your class participation grade. It is each student's responsibility to determine what was missed because of absence. (Check the class Website or see me after school.) All assignments that are turned in late because of an excused absence from school should have "absent" and the date(s) of the absence written across the top of the paper. Make-up tests/quizzes will be given after school. It is your responsibility to approach me to schedule make up tests/ quizzes.

What to do if you need help:

Talk to me as soon as possible. I am available before school and after school in Room PTC. Drop-ins are welcome, but if you want to avoid searching for me after school, I recommend arranging a meeting in advance. I strongly prefer talking with students face-to-face, but in an emergency you may call me at home (610-543-3451). You may also email me at vscott@wssd.org. My job is to help you learn, but I can't help you with a problem if I'm not aware that it exists. **At its heart, this is a course that should help you communicate more effectively, so let's keep lines of communication open.**