

**Mr. Peterson's 9<sup>th</sup> Grade English Class**  
**Introduction to Literary Analysis and Academic Writing**

**Contact Information:**

Room: PTA

Class Website: [petersonenglish1.weebly.com](http://petersonenglish1.weebly.com)Email: [dpeterson@wssd.org](mailto:dpeterson@wssd.org)

I will do everything I can to assist you in your academic and personal successes. If you require additional help, I am available to you before and after school. Please be proactive in seeking out my help. Do not wait until the last minute.

If your parent/guardian wishes to get in contact with me, email is best. If they would like to speak over the phone, ask them to send me an email with their name, phone number, and the best time to return their call. I will contact them as soon as possible.

**Outline of Course:**

The 9<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum is designed to introduce students to literary analysis and academic writing. The year includes a study of classic literature and plays; these texts will inspire us to explore different forms of writing. This course provides extensive direct instruction in expository and persuasive writing, essay structure, syntax, and mechanics. The class will also use supplemental readings, films, and creative writing assignments.

This year will focus around the theme of “search for self.” Through assigned texts and writing assignments, students will explore the ways in which individuals search for sense, connection, and purpose in life. Students will also examine the role family and society play in an individual’s “search for self.”

This year we will be studying the following texts:

- Selected short stories, poems and nonfiction
- *The Odyssey* by Homer; English translation by Robert Fagles
- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare (The New Folger Library Edition)
- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri [honors only]
- *Inherit the Wind* by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee [CP only]

The first weeks of the school year will be devoted to reviewing our summer reading. If you have not yet finished reading your required text(s), please complete as soon as possible.

**Required Materials**

- texts (students will be provided with copies of the texts studied in class; students are expected to bring the text to class EVERY DAY once it has been assigned)
- pens/pencils
- a 3-ring binder OR divided notebook – It is recommended you divide up your binder/notebook into the following sections with paper in each section:
  1. Notes
  2. In-class work
  3. Writing
  4. Homework
- *Recommended:* a USB flash drive on which to save assignments typed in class/school

**Class Expectations:**

1. Respect all individuals in our class.
2. Come to class on time and prepared.
3. Remain on task and in your seat unless you have permission to do otherwise.
4. You are welcome and EXPECTED to participate in class discussions, but please raise your hand and wait to be called on.

**Consequences**

If you CHOOSE to break a rule, you can expect the following consequences:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Detention
3. Phone call home
4. Referral to dean

Severe disruptions will result in an automatic administrative referral. **I reserve the right to assign an appropriate course of action that differs from the above sequence.**

All detentions will be served at the start of 5<sup>th</sup> block the same day the detention is assigned. If you feel you have a valid reason you cannot make the detention, you must speak to me *before* the start of your detention. Extracurricular activities during 5<sup>th</sup> block are not valid excuses to miss a detention.

**Grading Policies**

Your marking period grade will be calculated based on the percentage of points earned. Assignments will differ in value according to their importance.

The percentage range for grades is as follows:

A+	98-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	93-97	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62

- There will be a final exam worth 10% of your final grade in this course.
- I am happy to share your current grade in the course with you before or after school.

**Extra Credit**

Students have a range of opportunities throughout the year to demonstrate their knowledge and abilities. Because grades reflect a variety of work, extra credit is not offered on an individual basis. Occasionally extra credit assignments will be offered to the entire class at my discretion. If you are concerned about your grade, please see me prior to the end of the quarter to discuss how you can improve your scores on future assignments.

**Making Up Missed Work**

You are responsible for making up work missed due to excused absences from class. You may have one day to make up work for each one day of absence. If possible, it is recommended that you check the class website when absent so you can make up the missed work before returning to school.

If you are absent:

- the day an essay or project is due, the essay or project is due the first day you return to school.
- the day before an announced test, you are still responsible for taking the test the day you return. For example, if there is an *Odyssey* test Friday and you are absent Thursday, you must still take the *Odyssey* test Friday when you return.
- the day of the test, you are responsible for making up the test within two days of your return. Tests must be made up before school or during 5<sup>th</sup> block. Students WILL NOT be allowed to miss class time in my class or another teacher's class in order to take a test.

Students who are absent for three or more days should speak with me immediately upon their return to school to make arrangements to make up missed work.

**Turning in Assignments Late**

Assignments turned in after the due date will be penalized. Homework will be accepted within a reasonable amount of time and be given 50% credit. Papers and projects will have 10% deducted from your grade per day of being late. If you are having problems completing an assignment for any reason, you must see me *before* the start of class time to discuss alternative arrangements to complete the assignment.

Printer or computer problems are NOT valid excuses for failing to turn in an assignment. I encourage students experiencing printer issues to email me their assignment.

Remember – it is *always* better to turn in an assignment late than not at all.

**Making Up Low Grades**

If you receive a grade of D or lower on an essay assignment, you may revise the assignment for a higher grade. There are several conditions:

- You must request to makeup the work within one week of receiving the low grade
- You must have a conference with me to discuss changes to improve the grade
- Your final grade will be an average of your first grade and your makeup grade. For example, if you received a 65% on your essay, then rewrote the essay and received an 85%, your final grade on the essay would be a 75%.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is unacceptable in this classroom for all assignments, including homework. If you are found to have committed plagiarism on an assignment, you will receive a zero on the assignment and not be allowed to make it up for a higher grade.

- All work you submit is expected to be your own work; no work for the class (except prescribed group work) may be completed wholly or partially by another person.
- The *wording* of any work you submit is expected to be your own. You may not submit any work that has been copied (whether it be the entire thing or one sentence) from a website, book, article, another student's paper or notebook, or any other written or printed media source. Another writer's phrases, sentences, or paragraphs may be included only if presented as quotations and cited properly.
- The *ideas* expressed in a paper are expected to have originated with you. Written work that paraphrases another writer's ideas without proper acknowledgement may not be submitted.
- You may correct and revise your writing with the help of reference books, peers, teachers, parents, or other tutors. However, you may not submit work that has been revised substantially by another person.
- All major writing assignments are required to be submitted to TurnItIn.com.

If you are found to be copying an assignment for another class during my class, I will confiscate the assignment and give it to the teacher of that class. Please feel free to talk with me if you have any questions or concerns about the plagiarism policy.

## **Classroom Procedures**

1. You should take care of all lavatory concerns before or after class. In the event of an emergency, please wait until an appropriate time (between activities, during a pause etc.) to request a pass. **I reserve the right to deny the privilege if the timing is inappropriate or your use of the privilege is being abused.** Students who have medical concerns should have a parent/guardian write a note.
2. The nurse should be used to treat genuine medical concerns; therefore, trips to the nurse should happen infrequently. Students who have medical concerns should have a parent/guardian write a note.
3. At the end of the period, the bell does not dismiss the class; I do. Do not pack up or leave your seat until I dismiss you. Your work area must be clean, desk straightened, and chair pushed in before you leave the classroom.
4. You are expected to be silent and attentive during any announcements over the PA system.
5. Be on time to class (through the door when the bell rings) and be aware of the school's policy regarding lateness to class and class cuts.
6. Ipods, cell phones, or any other electronic devices should not be seen or heard in the classroom. If you bring in any of these devices, it will be confiscated until the end of the day. If it is confiscated chronically, I will send it to the dean.
7. No drinks (other than bottled water) or food is permitted in class.
8. I will make calls home for disruptive behavior or poor performance in class. I will also periodically make calls home to inform parents/guardians of superb progress or performance in class.