

8th Grade English Language Arts: Course Syllabus

Mr. Youssef

Academic Year 2020-2021

TEACH Academy of Technologies

Contact Information

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Course Description:

Welcome to 8th Grade English Language Arts! This year students will study various texts, improve their grammar and build upon sentence structure/vocabulary, and sharpen their writing skills through essays, short stories and quick writes. To help prepare you for high school and beyond, we will practice writing professional documents you would send to a prospective employer. I have the pleasure of being your ELA teacher this year. Coming from a career in journalism from all over the country, I was called to teaching English as a way to pay it forward and help youth communicate more effectively - a skill that is incredibly important in the working world and in so many other sectors. I have experience teaching high school English and feel confident I can prepare you for the next stage in your education. Expect to practice writing every day and explore new worlds and different perspectives through close reading.

Course Text:

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt English; Intro to Reading; Intro to Literature (all accessible online); as well as supplemental texts ranging from creative short stories to academic texts and primary sources from key moments in history.

Course Outline:

Intro to Literature, our main text, will focus on building critical thinking skills, reading comprehension, grammar, and different kinds of writing. We will read additional texts, ranging from literature and short stories to informational texts that support what you are learning in your history class. In addition, you will write argumentative, expository and narrative essays to broaden your skills and find your voice.

Course Materials:

- Laptop computer provided by TEACH Public Schools for Zoom sessions, note taking, and other online work/resources
- Notebooks paper
- Pens (black or blue ink)
- Highlighter
- Daily Planner

Class Rules/Expectations (Modified for Online Instruction and Learning):

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has forced school closures and an online modality of teaching/learning, classroom rules and expectations have been altered to accommodate this difficult and dynamic time. Please review and follow all of the proceeding guidelines to ensure your success in 8th Grade ELA.

-In order to receive respect, you must be respectful to your teacher, your peers, and yourself.

-Remember TEACH Academy of Technologies' pillars which include dignity, self-discipline, respectful behavior, hard work, cooperation, kindness, integrity, creative problem solving, community & personal responsibility, and fairness.

-All Zoom sessions can be accessed by click the zoom icon on the zoom page:
<https://youssefs-study-hall.weebly.com/zoom.html>

-Students must attend all Zoom sessions which are required as dictated by their daily/weekly schedule.

-Students must come prepared and for each Zoom session **on time** and prepared to learn.

-Attendance will be taken at the start of each Zoom session and missed class periods will result in a negative impact in student learning outcomes along with poor participation grades.

-Students will wait in the Zoom waiting room patiently before they are let into the session by the instructor.

-The camera must be **turned on** for the duration of the Zoom session and students must have their **first and last name** displayed at all times.

-Students must be **in uniform** for each Zoom session.

-Students should attend daily **tutoring sessions** if they are struggling with particular assignments, or are struggling with class content in general.

- Students will remain quiet and respectful of the classroom environment for the duration of each zoom session unless otherwise indicated by the instructor.
- Students are not allowed to be on their phones during Zoom sessions. Earbuds will also not be permitted unless they are being used to listen into Zoom sessions.
- Food will not be allowed during Zoom session. Drinks should be limited to water and gum is discouraged to eliminate distraction.
- The chat function of Zoom should not be used by students for personal conversations. The chat function will be monitored by Mr.Youssef throughout the Zoom session. I reserve the right to limit chat to only between students and the host (me), but I want to give you an opportunity to demonstrate your maturity and how you take class seriously.
- Students will check Google Classroom daily for warm ups, lectures, classwork, and homework to ensure they are keeping up with their coursework.
- Students will check Weebly weekly to keep up with any updates regarding the procedures or general classroom structure. On the Weebly site, you will find a breakdown of the next few weeks' agendas.

Consequences for Violations of Rules/Expectations:

- 1st offense, Verbal warning
- 2nd offense, Student-teacher conference
- 3rd offense, Phone call home
- 4th offense, Parent-teacher conference
- 5th offense, Phone call home, parent-teacher conference and referral to office

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity will be strongly enforced. Cheating of any kind, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Assignments that violate academic integrity of any kind will receive no credit on the first offense. A second offense of academic dishonesty will result in zero credit for the assignment, a call home to parents, and a 10% decrease in a student's participation grade. A third offense of academic dishonesty will result in all of the above consequences along with a meeting with TEACH administration where additional consequences will be dispensed at the discretion of the teacher, counselors, and principle.

Revision Policy:

It is Mr. Youssef's firm belief that the learning process does not stop with the first submission of a classroom assignment, homework piece, or assessment of any kind. Mr. Youssef

strongly encourages students to take the feedback given to them by their teacher and peers through

grades and comments on student work in order to improve the quality of their final product. Revisions and resubmissions will be allowed on any assignment for up to half the credit that was originally taken off of the whole grade. Students are encouraged to use this revision policy to their advantage, as it will help students improve their grade immensely throughout the semester.

Late Work Policy:

The submission of late work is not encouraged, however, credit will be received for any assignment turned in late. Mr. Youssef also understands that sometimes life happens. As long as students communicate with their instructor directly about their academic needs, Mr. Youssef will be flexible and happy to work with you - but that requires direct communication. With that said, the following is the breakdown of penalties that will be incurred for late work for non-excused absences. Note that attendance will be taken within the first five minutes of each Zoom lesson.

- 1st day late, 10% total grade penalty
- 2nd day late, 20% total grade penalty
- 3rd day and beyond, 50% total grade penalty

*Please note that the revision policy outlined above will not be honored for work that violates the academic integrity policy.

Grade Breakdown:

- Assessments/Major Assignments: 45% of total grade
- Classwork: 45% of total grade
- Homework: 10% of total grade

Grading Scale:

- Rubric Score of 4 or A, 90-100%
- Rubric Score of 3 or B, 80-89%
- Rubric Score of 2 or C, 70-79%
- Rubric Score of 1 or F, 69% and below

Parents and students can monitor their grades and progress in the class through the website **Powerschool**.

This Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of Mr. Youssef at anytime

Student/Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

Students and parents should read this entire syllabus. Once completed, both students and parents should acknowledge receipt and understanding of the syllabus by signing and dating below. Question, comments, or concerns can be directly relayed to Mr.Youssef.
Email: yyassine@teachps.org

Student Name: _____ Student Signature _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____