

The focus for English 9, across LAUSD, is on reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills needed for student success in college and during the SBAC and other standardized tests.

At VAAS, our students also focus on social justice issues, current events, and how to use their voice to share their ideas about these issues and events.

In English 9, students will learn and hone reading, writing, listening and speaking skills through the lense of social justice issues, current events, and how to respond to these events and issues.

Semester ONE FOCUS

Speaking Up For What is Right: Post-Colonial Issues and Themes in Literature

- Non-Fiction texts about historical and/or current issues that have inspired authors to write short stories in response.
- Fictional short stories written by authors inspired by historical and/or current events.
- Short and extended writing assignments.
- Short group presentations.

Texts:

- You will be responsible for reading all the texts assigned in this course. All texts are subject to change. All texts will be made available as PDF. We will read a variety of news articles, opinion editorials, historical documents, and research materials. Your LAUSD issued StudySync textbook will MAYbe used during semester One, so be sure to know where it is at all times.
- Most texts will include audio versions of the text and direct links to the website where the text can be found.
- Students can choose to print their own copy of the texts or use notability or google docs to view and mark PDF versions.
- Students will choose their own independent reading book for daily silent reading and the end of semester book project assignment. For in class silent reading, only PHYSICAL BOOKS will be permitted. No digital books during class. Books can be from any library, but should at or above a 6th grade reading level.

Supplies:

- A CHARGED AND READY TO USE school issued IPAD or other portable digital devices to use during class for GOOGLE DOC, GOOGLE SLIDES, GOOGLE SEARCH, and SCHOOLOGY.
- It is recommended that you bring your school issued Ipad charger or charging block everyday just in case.
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- If you have issues with this, please reach out to our assistant principal who can help with obtaining the appropriate device at malaika.evans@thevalleyacademy.net . If you need tech assistance, please email techsupport@thevalleyacademy.net
- Notebook paper

- Pen, pencil, or writing utensil for daily assignments
- Highlighters
- Folder for physical papers
- GOOGLE DRIVE WITH FOLDER FOR ENGLISH 9 ASSIGNMENTS AND MATERIALS
- Daily PHYSICAL BOOK for silent reading.

If you have the following on hand, you will definitely make use of them:

- Watercolor set
- Markers, Crayons, or other coloring devices
- Magazines (for collage work)
- Construction paper, white paper, and/or drawing paper
- Personal Journal or composition book

Class Rules

PHONES

Phones can be used during English 9 to complete English 9 assignments. Phones that are used for inappropriate or off-task activities will be:

1. Warned verbally or in writing
2. Asked to put in backpack or less accessible place. Will be noted in Mrs. Blossom's behavior log.
3. Phone confiscated until the end of period or sent to Mr. Tyni. Parents will be notified and the incident will be noted in MISIS/contact record.
4. Repeat offenses may escalate faster and result in a contacting your conseilour for a parent/student/teacher/counselor meeting.

BATHROOM/HALL PASS

- Ensure that your lanyard with ID card is on and visible before asking to take the hallpass.
- Upon approval from Mrs. Blossom, sign out on the clipboard with your full name, the time you are leaving, and your destination.
- Clip the hallpass visibly to your visible lanyard with ID card.
- Return the hallpass.
- Failure to sign out correctly, take the hall pass, ask for the hall pass, or display the hall pass or your lanyard and ID card will result in suspension of your hall pass privileges and contact with your parents, Mr. Tyni and your counselor as needed.

ACADEMIC LANGUAGE:

Students must respect the ideas of others and be willing to entertain the ideas of an opposing position. There will be a zero tolerance policy for students who use discriminatory, derogatory, or foul language during a zoom meeting. Remember:

- ◆ Students must remain calm and respectful of their classmates
- ◆ Students must participate- ideas are more important than answers.
- ◆ No distractions - such as side conversations or phone use

RECORDING, PHOTOS, SOCIAL MEDIA, FACETIME, ZOOM, etc.

Filming, photographing, audio recording, live streaming, face timing, etc. are NOT PERMITTED during class UNLESS for an assigned class project/activity. Any student participating in these activities will be warned, parents will be contacted, and Mr. Tyni and the counselors will be notified as needed.

Non-Negotiable Situations that will be addressed, noted, and referred to administration:

- Racist, Sexist, Anti-LGBTQ, or any other discriminatory and/or offensive language, drawing, comments, remarks, speech, gestures, etc.
- Exclusive behavior such as bullying, not including others, refusing to work with someone without sufficient justification, etc.
- FILMING, PHOTOGRAPHING, RECORDING of the virtual classroom, other students, teachers, classroom aides/paraprofessionals, etc. using electronic devices WITHOUT EXPLICIT PERMISSION AND KNOWLEDGE OF ALL PARTIES INVOLVED.
- Note: Students are NOT permitted to use social media apps that require 'live' functions or video recording, apps that are 'live' like facetime and/or video-calling. Students MAY use the camera app on their IPAD to photo submit their assignments and to make various ASSIGNED video projects or photo projects.
- Obvious and outright disrespect or discourtesy directed towards the teacher, other students, other teachers, teacher aides/paraprofessionals, guest speakers, other staff, the learning environment, SCHOOL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (keyboards, desks, chairs, walls, supplies, etc.).

Plagiarism and copying: All assignments (including artwork) must be your own original work. Any questions about how to cite sources or give appropriate credit should be asked before submitting work. Plagiarism can include copying from others, copying ideas or concepts from others, or allowing others to add to/adjust your work. Intentional copying or plagiarism is not tolerated and will result in an automatic zero on the assignment with no option for make up. Additionally, you will become ineligible for any athletics or clubs you participate from and will be withheld from graduation until reparations are served. Repeat offenses can be subject to more severe consequences. Refer to LAUSD policy.

GRADING:

Cooperation and Work Habits constitute a part of your participation grade. You will be graded on your attitude, effort, collaboration skills, cooperation with peers, contributions to discussions, professionalism, and citizenship within the classroom community.

- TO EARN AN E= attends class on time, participates in all activities, shows courtesy and respect at all times, helps build our VAAS family, takes initiative/responsibility, and avoids non-negotiable situations.
- TO EARN AN S= occasionally or frequently tardy to class, participates in most activities, shows courtesy and respect most of the time, joins our VAAS family, and avoids non-negotiable situations.
- TO EARN A U=frequently absent or tardy, does not participate, shows disrespect and discourtesy, purposefully not being part of the VAAS family, participates in non-negotiable situations.

LATE WORK & RESUBMITTED WORK

LATE WORK: You may submit late work for FULL CREDIT until a ZERO SCORE is assigned in Schoology.

Once a zero score is assigned, your assignments will be scored at Mrs. Blossom's discretion and first convenience.

Mrs. Blossom will make every effort to review late work as soon as possible, but cannot guarantee it will be scored until the END of the semester.

COMMON CORE E.L.A. 9-10 GRADE FOCUS STANDARDS FOR 2021 SEMESTER ONE

Students will be graded on their progress for each SKILL and not on their completion of the assignment. Students who "turn everything in" but are not mastering the skill, cannot advance their grade. Students can 're-do' or 'resubmit' the same assignment as many times as needed to show that they are proficient at the skill being learned.

MANY other standards will be addressed throughout the semester, but those listed below will be heavily emphasized, frequently addressed, and repeatedly assessed through various lessons, strategies, and modes of learning.

NONFICTION READING AND WRITING SKILLS TO BE MASTERED:

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.2

Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.1

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

GRADING SCALE:

COMMON CORE STANDARDS BASED GRADING: 4-0 GRADING

4 MASTERY=A 4 (4.0-3.700)

Grade level standard exceeded. Demonstrates above grade level reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

3 PROFICIENT=B 3 (3.699-3.00)

Grade level standard met. Demonstrates grade level reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

2 ADVANCING=C 2 (2.99-2.00)

Grade level standard is not yet met. Demonstrates slightly below grade level reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

1 BEGINNING=D 1 (1.99-1.00)

Grade level standard is not yet met. Demonstrates below grade level reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

0 INCOMPLETE/UNABLE TO ASSESS=F 0 (0.99-0.00)

Grade level standard is not yet met or attempted. Demonstrates far below grade level reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. Little or no attempt made for assessment.

4.0-3.70=A= MASTERY

3.699-3.00=B= PROFICIENT

2.99-2.00=C= ADVANCING

1.99-1.00=D= BEGINNING

0.99-0.00=F=INCOMPLETE

Final Grade Breakdown:

- In Class Silent Reading Participation=5%
- Final Book Presentation=5%
- E-Notebook=15%
- Classwork/Homework=25%
- Assessments=50%

CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK: (25% of Final Grade)

- Some assignments will be started, completed and submitted physically or digitally during class.

- Some assignments will be started during class and can be completed UPTO each weekly assignment drop.
- Each week, unless indicated explicitly by Mrs. Blossom, students have until Sunday night at 11:59 pm to submit any assignments not already collected/submitted during class that week.

ASSESSMENTS(Tests): (50% of Final Grade)

1. Benchmark #1 (Essay)
2. Group Presentation for Theme #1 Competition and the Loss of Humanity/The Golden Kite, The Silver Wind
3. Essay for Theme #1
4. Theme #2 Discrimination/By Any Other Name Group Presentation
5. Essay for Theme #2
6. SBAC Test #1 (Multiple Choice/Short Answer)
7. Theme #3 Fear of Technological Progress and Necessity of Technology/The Pedestrian, A Sound of Thunder, Who's There Group Presentation
8. Essay for Theme #3
9. Fall Digital Portfolio Entry for English 9 ONLY (not entire Digital Portfolio)
10. Benchmark #2 (Essay)

OTHER BIG GRADES:

11. E-NOTEBOOK (15% OF FINAL GRADE)

12. IN CLASS SILENT READING PARTICIPATION (5% OF FINAL GRADE)

13. FINAL BOOK PROJECT PRESENTATIONS (5% OF FINAL GRADE)

***Routine (every class meeting) Assignments:**

*occasional exceptions for assemblies, testing, etc.

- ***Daily Silent reading for 10-15 minutes**

*At least one PHYSICAL (not digital) book read during class must be used for final book project, ONLY PHYSICAL BOOKS will be aloud during class but can be found in the school library, Mrs. Blossom's library, public library, home library, etc.

- ***Daily E-Notebook Free Response for 10-15 minutes**

*must share Google Doc E-Notebook with Mrs. Blossom for grading

- **Classwork and Homework OR Assessments**