



# English 10 CP

2025-2026 • Grades 10 • 1 English credit  
Year-long Course • Room 104 • Period 3 & 7

## Course Description

This course focuses on reading and writing with particular emphasis on critical thinking, listening, and research skills. Students read and analyze literature and discuss the texts in terms of the elements of literature, literary themes, historical significance, and writing styles. Students further develop expository and argumentative writing skills to reach and maintain proficiency in writing. Students are introduced to rhetoric and speech analysis. This course also focuses on grammar and vocabulary development and usage to improve writing. Students also learn multi-step research and documentation skills.

## Course Objectives

Students will

- Students will use reading, listening, and viewing strategies to experience, understand, and appreciate literature and culture.
- Students will make abstract connections between their own lives and the characters, events, and circumstances represented in various works.
- Students will write pieces and deliver oral presentations, which are targeted for various audiences.
- Students will enhance their grammar and vocabulary skills.

## Prerequisite

NONE

## Materials Needed

Laptop, headphones, notebook, folder, pens/pencils, highlighters, sticky notes

## Expectations

This is a rigorous English class designed to prepare students for college; therefore, the standards for performance are high. Students should be responsible for their own work and have the initiative to achieve with minimal prompting. Students should be independent readers and motivated to succeed. To be successful, students should be disciplined, independent readers who can read and comprehend lengthy, complex works of literature with some teacher support. Students are expected to be prepared to participate actively and cooperatively in each class. They must pass assignments in on time, confer with teachers for help as needed or requested, and take responsibility for their learning.

*Tiff Shaw*

[tshaw@winthropschools.org](mailto:tshaw@winthropschools.org) • 207-377-2228 x3104

### Unit 1 -

#### Rhetoric:

#### The Art of

#### Persuasion

- *Animal Farm*
- Speeches
- How do writers and creators use rhetorical appeals like logos, pathos, and ethos?
- What strategies do authors use to craft effective speeches, stories, poems or essays?
- How does propaganda aim to manipulate audiences?

### Unit 2 -

#### Justice

- *12 Angry Men*
- How do playwrights and other authors develop narratives to communicate certain messages and spark conversations?
- How can students write strong arguments that incorporate counterclaims and rebuttals?

### Unit 3 -

#### Poetry

- Various Poems
- Why does poetry often seem beyond our grasp?
- How do poets utilize the structure of a poem in order to better communicate their message?

### Unit 4 -

#### Coming of

#### Age &

#### Career

#### Project

- Various Short Stories
- How can students find reliable information in school research projects as well as in their everyday lives?
- What does it mean to become an adult?

\*Materials subject to change to fit student needs and interests.

## Grading Scale

97-100 A+	73-76 C
93-96 A	70-72 C-
90-92 A-	68-69 D+
87-89 B+	66-67 D
83-86 B	65 D-
80-82 B-	64 and below F
77-79 C+	

## Policies

**Electronic Devices:** Click [here](#) for the WHS Policy on cellphones, smart watches, laptops and other devices.

**Late Work:** The expectation is that work will be passed in at the time that it is due. PLEASE discuss any extenuating circumstances with me **prior** to the due date/time of your assignment if it is going to come in late. **If you have a missed assignment you MUST turn in a “[Late Assignment Form](#)” in order to be eligible to turn the assignment in late.**

1. *First missed assignment:* Student will be pulled during WIN for a discussion and to give time to complete the assignment
2. *Second missed assignment:* Student will be pulled during WIN and home will be contacted to make parents/guardians aware of the missed assignments
3. *Third missed assignment:* student will be pulled during WIN; home will be contacted; and we will set up an after school session to complete your work

**Late work will not be accepted past the following dates for each quarter unless you have been given an official Incomplete status.**

- Quarter 1 - **October 24th** by midnight
- Quarter 2 - **January 9th** by midnight
- Quarter 3 - **March 19st** by midnight
- Quarter 4 - **May 22th** by midnight

**Make-up:** For each *excused* day missed, students will have a cumulative of two (2) school days to make up the work from the missed days. A zero will be recorded for the work not made up.

[Click here for the link to the Winthrop Public Schools Policy.](#)

## Accountability & Grading

You are fully responsible for all assignments, instructions, and information presented for class, whether you are present or not. If you are not present, it is your responsibility to communicate with me about the work you missed.

I expect homework to be completed on time. All homework is due at the beginning of class. Homework is given daily and will require about 1 hour of your time per night.

I do not weigh grades. Everything is based on a points system, and I will tell you what every assignment is worth when I assign it, and grades are categorized by Classwork, Homework, Papers, Presentations, Quizzes, Tests, and Projects. Each quarter is worth 25% of your grade. Maine State Learning Results are embedded in each unit but are no longer assessed separately. Grades are updated at least once a week on Tuesday.

WHS incorporates HOW grades. I will assess them twice a quarter. These grades will be no more than 10% of your quarter grade.

I am available for extra help before school, after school, during Period 1, during Advisee time, during WIN, or via email anytime.

## Academic Cheating and Plagiarism:

[from the WHS student handbook:](#)

Academic honesty is required at all times. Dishonesty in any form, including cheating, copying, giving answers, plagiarism (taking credit for the work of others), copyright violations, false authorship, and theft or pre-examination of tests, or using devices as a means to being dishonest is forbidden.

## MLR Standards

[Click here for the complete guide to English 10 standards.](#)