



COMPOSITION & ENGLISH II

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Course Guidelines:

Composition is a prerequisite to English II, which ends with the English II End-of-Course Final Exam in June 2026. All tenth grade classes will read nonfiction and fiction pieces from literature around the world along with U.S. seminal texts (e.g. Roosevelt's Four Freedoms speech, King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail," President Lincoln's "The Gettysburg Address," Washington's Farewell Address) to prepare and practice for the EOC. Composition will focus heavily on writing skills (grammar in preparation for the ACT and SAT, writing coherently, editing and revising, researching and organizing information).

***Honors Composition** students will be expected to read some assignments independently at home (especially novels). There will also be higher expectations in regards to writing development, speaking and listening skills (especially in regards to at-home readings), and the research process.

In addition, the student will:

- Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text and determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text;
- Read and comprehend literary nonfiction;
- Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of a topic or a text;
- Write informative / explanatory texts to convey ideas and information clearly and effectively;
- Conduct short research projects to answer a question or solve a problem, while integrating information into the text, avoiding plagiarism, and following a standard format for citation; Participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions on grade ten topics, texts, and issues;
- Demonstrate command of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking;
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing;
- Write and edit work so that it conforms to the guidelines of MLA style;
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases;
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language and nuances in words.

Materials

- Required:
 - 100-page Composition book (No spiral!); you will also need another one for English II
 - Loose-leaf paper
 - Pens (blue or black ink) and pencils
- Optional:
 - Three-ring binder (may share with other classes)
 - Tabs/dividers
 - Set of colored pencils or markers (the finer the tip, the better)
 - Set of highlighters (4 colors will suffice)

Classroom Rules and Expectations	Consequences
1. Come to class prepared and on time 2. Stay focused and on task 3. Respect teacher, classroom, classmates 4. No food, beverages (except for water), or chewing gum 5. Obey all school policies	1st offense: Teacher-student conference 2nd offense: Phone call home 3rd offense: Administrative referral

Course Outline:

- Grammar, punctuation and usage for writing and ACT prep (identifying the parts of speech, sentence parts, clauses, sentence types; editing for commas, semicolons, colons, apostrophes; subject-verb agreement, pronoun-antecedent agreement and pronoun usage)
- The expository writing process (6+1 traits in writing, extended definition, cause-and-effect, problem-solution)
- The research writing process (locating and evaluating resources, annotating, annotated bibliography, in-text citations, mini-research paper)
- Literature: Latin America and Magic Realism, Asian literature, *Night*, *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Honors only)
- Vocabulary development will involve Latin and Greek word part development in the fall semester.

Organization for Success:

It is encouraged that students invest in a daily planner whether it be electronic or tangible. These agenda-type planners help keep pace with homework assignments, approaching due dates, and other information. Homework and due dates will be posted daily on the course CANVAS page in a daily announcement.

Lastly, we will use composition books (no spiral!) for writing practices, taking class notes, and storing other assignments. It is imperative that you have one! These will be collected for a cursory check and class work grade. Practices may be peer-evaluated; the teacher will be looking for completion of both the practice and peer evaluations. Weekly writing & grammar quizzes (usually Fridays) often focus on the writing skills out of your composition book that we practiced throughout the week.

Procedures and Guidelines for Classroom Decorum:

- Most Class work/Formative assessments will be graded on the following scale:
 - 100%: All work completed and no major issues with the standards.
 - 85%: All work completed but a singular issue exists with a standard.
 - 70%: All work completed but repetitive issues exist.
 - 50%: The assignment is incomplete.
 - Note: Some assignments will be graded on accuracy.
- Tests and quizzes/summative assessments will be graded on accuracy.
- An announcement will be posted each day in CANVAS. This posting will automatically email to you as well. This is just a daily reminder of where to go and what was completed and submitted. Follow this daily announcement if you are absent or forgot the reading assignment.
- Please do not compose new emails to the teacher once you have started a thread with the teacher. Keep replying to the original thread. This will keep all emails for the teacher and you in one location.
- Communicate technical difficulties to me before the end of the day at 3:00. I may be able to help you before we need to complete a technology ticket.

Homework Policy

Homework is generally assigned to complete work not completed in class or to practice a standard/objective the class is working towards. Late homework may not be accepted, as homework is usually discussed and checked the next school day (An exception would be for an excused absence from school). Homework may be checked for completion or it may be taken up and graded by the teacher. In Composition, it may become necessary that a student needs to finish a writing assignment at home.

Absences/Make up work policy:

When ABSENT, it is the student's responsibility to check CANVAS and ask the teacher if assistance is needed. Students are responsible for handing in due assignments when they return to class from an absence, if possible. Students have TWO (2) days for every absence to hand-in work from the day of their absence. Once that grace period has passed, late penalties will apply to the assignment. There will be a penalty assessed for all late assignments (-10 points per day). Absences and not completing work are the biggest hindrance to a student's success. Please be diligent in keeping pace with the course.

***If a student is absent the day before a quiz/test/essay due date, he/she is *not* excused from the assignment.**

Tardy Policy:

School policy states: Three (3) tardies make an absence. There will be no excused tardies for the period following lunch. Students must be in the room when the bell rings to avoid being marked tardy. If tardy, you must have a note from a teacher or complete the QR Code through AllTimely.

Late Work:

Ten (10) points will be deducted for every day that an assignment is late. Students should not wait until a progress report to be concerned about making up work. Students will know days in advance of the due dates for larger assignments; ergo, do not procrastinate! Assignments will not be accepted after ten (10) days from the due date. If you are in class, you are NOT excused from the assignment! This is different from the absence policy (make-up work). Simply: If in class, the student is expected to submit the assignment on time. There is no late work accepted from students who were present in class. Submit/Hand-in the assignment on time. Late work only applies to those who are absent.

Cheating/Plagiarism Policy:

I define cheating as knowingly giving or receiving answers for any assignment, regardless of its importance. This may include sharing answers in or out of class, viewing or allowing other students to view answers/assignments during class (i.e. turning your screen during a test so a classmate can view it), or any method used to copy and/or change answers. Plagiarism is defined as knowingly using content from another source without providing the proper accreditation and citation to that source. This includes using the internet or A.I. to copy. Because of this, cell phones are not allowed in class during *any* assignment. If a student's phone is out during an assignment or direct instruction, he/she will receive a zero (0) for that assignment. If caught cheating or plagiarizing by any other means, student(s) will receive a zero (0) for the assignment. Parameters for group assignments will be defined clearly; however, an independent assignment means it should be done independently!

If suspected of any cheating, you may be asked to prove the originality of your work. This means you should be able to:

- Explain your ideas in your own words
- Define the vocabulary you used
- Summarize your main points without looking at your paper
- Answer questions about how and why you wrote what you did

If you cannot do these things, your work may be considered inauthentic. The goal is to make sure the work reflects **your own thinking and understanding**.

Bathroom Policy:

Try to take care of bathroom needs before entering class. **School policy: There is no using the bathroom during the first or last fifteen minutes of class - no exceptions!** In case of the occasional emergency, ask to be excused during a transition in class that is not interrupting instruction. You must have a pass (lanyard for restroom; note for anywhere else) before you leave; only one person may use the restroom at a time. If you know you frequently drink throughout the day, please bring a water bottle and fill it at a fountain.

CANVAS and ChromeBooks:

Students and parents need to reference CANVAS to view assignments, grades, and retrieve pertinent documents. Due dates and documents will be posted in CANVAS; some quizzes, tests, and essays may be submitted through the CANVAS. Students will also need to be familiar with their Google account. Teacher will e-mail/message/post and share pertinent documents throughout the semester. Students are expected to report any damages to their ChromeBook immediately to the teacher.

Grading Scale:

Formative assessment ('class work'):	40%
Summative assessment ('test'):	60%
*Cumulative Teacher-Made Final Exam	20% of final grade (school exemption applies!)

All public schools use a ten-point grading scale:

A = 100-90

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 59 or below

Progress Reports for 2025-2026

Grading periods: August 25 – October 31, November 3 - **January 16 (semester ends)**; January 21 – March 27, March 30 - **June 9 (semester ends)**

Fall semester: September 23 (Q1), November 10 (Q1 report cards); December 9 (Q2), January 26 (S1 report cards)

Spring semester: February 20 (Q3), April 2 (Q3 report cards); May 1 (Q4), TBA (S2 report cards)

*Grades will be updated weekly in Infinite Campus.