

**English 1 M Course Syllabus**  
**Mrs. Onove (Guinee):** cguinee@summit.k12.nj.us  
**Ms. Maldonado:** emaldonado@summit.k12.nj.us  
2025-2026

**Google Classroom Codes**

Period 2: yifros36

Period 7: gxsuwvfv

**Course Overview**

The major emphasis of English 1 is upon the skills of communication, both written and oral. Students, as both producers and consumers of language, will receive instruction in communication by speaking, listening, reading, writing, viewing, and researching. A focus on the fundamentals of the writing process is an integral part of the course. In addition, students will be instructed in the use of library resources and in study skills. A research project, as well as various types of narrative and expository essays, will be expected.

This class will serve as the foundation for your growth as a student of English throughout your high school career. Our close study of language and its impact will allow us to become stronger readers, writers, and critical thinkers. We will encounter a variety of texts across genres that will ask us to consider thought-provoking questions about the human experience. As we walk alongside the characters we meet in literature, we will begin to explore our own values and sense of identity.

**Materials**

1. Writing utensils: Come prepared each day with **more than one** writing utensil (your choice of pens and/or pencils). Please always have a number 2 pencil handy for use on Scantron forms.
2. Chromebook: Make sure your Chromebook is fully charged and ready for use each day.
3. Binder and loose-leaf paper: Prepare at least one section in a three-ring binder that is dedicated to English. We typically distribute handouts in addition to posting materials on Google Classroom, and we expect all handouts to be hole punched and stored appropriately. Please keep plenty of loose-leaf paper in your binder as well.
4. Sticky notes of various sizes and highlighters: We will form a habit of actively reading and annotating course texts. We strongly encourage you to have sticky notes and highlighters readily available for note-taking purposes.

**Grading**

We will engage in a variety of activities and assessments over the course of each marking period that will determine your grade. Each assessment will be categorized and weighted as outlined below. You will be able to tell the relative value of an assignment by the number of points it is worth.

- ❖ Classwork & Homework – 20%
- ❖ Assessments (quizzes and tests) – 40%
- ❖ Writing & Projects – 40%

**Daily Procedure/ Expectations**

1. Arrive quietly and on time. Immediately put your phone in its designated location near the door. Say hi to us! We are excited to see you.
2. Sit in your assigned seat, and check out what the Do Now is for the day by looking at the front board. Begin completing the Do Now as soon as you are seated. The first 10 minutes of most class periods will be

dedicated to independent reading. Please come prepared each day with an independent reading book of your choice.

3. Once you have finished the Do Now, sit quietly and wait for further instructions. If you have a question at any point, please raise your hand and wait for your turn to speak.
4. When completing group work, be kind to your peers and contribute equally to the group.
5. When completing independent work, do not be afraid to ask us for help. Being focused during this time will prevent you from having homework.
6. Raise your hand and ask if you need to use the restroom, preferably after instructions for the day have been given. Only one student is allowed out of the classroom at a time, and we will not have a “revolving door.”
7. You may only leave the classroom if you have your student ID, and you may not take your phone with you.
8. When the bell rings, you will push in your chair, retrieve your phone, and walk out of class quietly. There will be no lining up at the door.
9. Say thank you and goodbye to us! We will do the same.

### **Academic Integrity**

We have a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism, cheating, and enabling others to cheat. This policy is in direct accordance with the section on cheating/plagiarism in your student handbook. Your unique ideas and opinions are far more valuable than any that can be found elsewhere or generated by AI. Take pride in your work and do the right thing. If you are struggling with an assignment, please come see us during office hours as soon as possible.

### **Makeup and Late Work Policies**

- In the event that you are absent, it is your responsibility to check Google Classroom as well as our course calendar to determine what you have missed. You may have the same number of days you are absent to make up missed assignments. It is up to you to make arrangements to take any missed quizzes or tests in a timely manner. Failure to do so will result in a permanent missing (zero).
- Late essays, projects, or any assignments that are ongoing or long term will be penalized up to 5 points per day. We understand that we all navigate complex lives within and outside of school. We may be willing to grant extensions on a case-by-case basis if the request is made *at least two days* prior to a major due date.

**We rarely give extra credit or offer retakes on assessments.** However, we are open to offering revision opportunities for multi-draft essays on a case-by-case basis. If you are granted a revision opportunity, you will be required to read our feedback, meet with us to discuss your work and revision plans, and submit it by a date we all agree upon.

### **Office Hours**

-Mrs. Onove will hold office hours during the second half of lunch in room 235. I have an open door policy and am happy to address quick concerns for you at any time. If you expect you might need more than 5-10 minutes of extra help, I suggest you make an appointment with me.

-Ms. Maldonado will hold office hours during the second half of lunch in room 243, or by appointment during periods 4 and 8.

### **Our Philosophy**

We will strive to create a warm, welcoming, and intellectually stimulating environment. We want you to consider the work we do in this course as a *practice*. There is no room for judgment of ourselves or others here. We are on an endless journey toward becoming stronger readers and writers. We do not expect or believe in perfection. We encourage you to take risks, make mistakes, and fail with the confidence that you will grow as a result.

**We are looking forward to having a wonderful year with you all!**