Ms. Leclaire
English 10: Spring 2019

Class Overview and Expectations

Semester Focus: Pushing Boundaries

What boundaries do our societies create and enforce? What boundaries do we face within ourselves? What draws us to test and to break these boundaries, and how do we deal with failure?

What will we do in this class?
This class will explore the psychology of characters who push boundaries. To complicate our own notions about rebellion and conformity, we will read Shakespeare's *Macbeth,* Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451,* and one banned independent reading book of choice. We also have a group film project at the end of the semester that will be accompanied by its own letter of explanation and permission slip. We will use all of these texts as vehicles for developing critical reading and speaking skills. Every step of the way, we will also hone our writing skills with specific, weekly writing drills and tasks.

What do I need for this class?
- A.H.S. School Calendar
- Accounts for Google, Quizlet, and IXL
- A charged laptop and WELL-ORGANIZED Google folder
- On occasion, notebook paper, pencils, and pens

How do I do well in this class?
Ms. Leclaire's expectations are simple and central to the success of this class. Please help each other uphold them at all times:

1. **Show respect** at all times to your classmates, your teacher, and yourself.

2. **Take charge** of your own learning, and take it seriously.

3. Be a little **better** than you were yesterday.

*All policies in the A.H.S. Student Calendar will be enforced in this class (no hats, no food, etc.). Please see your Student Calendar to familiarize yourself with A.H.S.'s bullying policy.

How are we graded?
- I reward hard work, consistency, and improvement.
- Typing is required for all assignments unless otherwise stated. Only typed assignments will be accepted.
- All work needs to be turned in on time. If you have extenuating circumstances, you must ask for an extension AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE. Otherwise, your assignment will be treated as late.
- Grades are weighted to emphasize growth. Each of your assignments will fall under one of the following three categories and will be weighted accordingly:

How is my work assessed?
Grades are designed to provide feedback on how well you are progressing towards your learning goals. Each category is weighted as noted below:

1. Attempt and Completion (30%): When we begin new books, writings, and projects, we will develop thinking strategies to help recognize and ease confusion. Once we master these skills, they will empower us as close readers, confident writers, and deep thinkers. Initially, you'll earn points simply for attempting to use these new skills. I won't be asking for "one right answer"; instead, I'll ask you to "show me your thinking." At this stage of grading, the only way you fail to earn points is if you choose to do nothing at all.

2. Growth (40%): As the semester progresses, so should you! I want you to feel as though you're getting a little smarter with each unit we do, and I will be assessing your growth and improvement. In this grading category, I will give you feedback so you can revise your work. Assignments that reflect growth and improvement will have points attached, but more importantly, they will offer feedback so that you can reflect on your progress and grow stronger as a reader, writer, and thinker. When you revise, your new grade replaces your old grade for assignments in this category.

3. Mastery (30%): This is the category that asks at the end of each unit, "Did you get it or not?" In other words, these are the big assignments, such as essays and projects, that you work towards in each unit. Did you meet the learning targets of each unit, or are you still a ways away? There are no redos or extra credit in this category; it is the culmination of how much you've grown throughout the unit. You will know the due dates for these major assignments far in advance (in fact, many of them are on our class calendar right now), and you will have many opportunities to practice so that you can achieve mastery.

Note: You (not your parents) are in charge of checking your grades every week and contacting me immediately if you have questions or concerns.

Can I turn in work late?
Not really. Being part of English 10 is being part of a professional environment; you need to be consistent with turning in your work on time. However, life happens, and to accommodate for unexpected bumps on the road, you will receive three late passes for the semester. You may use them for any assignment in the "Attempt and Completion" category and the "Growth" category, but you may NOT use them for the "Mastery" assignments. When you use a late pass, you must turn in that assignment within the same six-week grading period in which it was assigned. If you use all three late passes, you will receive zeros for any subsequent late assignments.

What happens if I miss class?
You are expected to come to class every day. English 10 is not a good time to schedule doctor's appointments. If you are unable to come to class, you should still keep up with the work posted on the class blog, and you may hand in your work either on the day that you return or the day after that. Major papers and assignments are due on the assigned date, even if you have an excused absence. ALWAYS CHECK THE CLASS BLOG!

What happens if I'm late to class?
Tardiness is not tolerated in this class. Aim to be early. If you are late once, you and I will have a chat. If you are late twice, I will write you a referral. After that, it gets ugly. Be on time to class.

What if I need extra help?
I love helping students outside of class. Please stop by the Language Arts office during my office hours, which you can find on the class website. If these times don't work for you, catch me before or after class. If you're confused about a homework assignment, make sure you get my help *before the assignment is due*. No matter what, I can help you find your way to success in this class. You can also e-mail me for help: kleclaire@lps.k12.co.us

How do I succeed in this class?
1. Take pride in your work.
2. Participate in class.
3. Set high goals for yourself and work toward them.
4. Ask questions.
5. Plan ahead.

I'm looking forward to a challenging but fun semester with you! Please let me know if you have any questions, and drop by my desk anytime.

I have read Ms. Leclaire's policies for English 10.

Student name (printed neatly):_____

Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions or concerns, please write them in the space below, and I will answer them as soon as possible:

Please detach and return this sheet to me by <u>Thursday, January 10</u>. Keep the other sheet in your binder.