

English 9
Heritage High School
Mr. Ambron Period 3
Mr. Stewart and Mr. Ambron Period 5
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First and foremost, we would like to welcome you to OUR language arts class. While we are the teachers of this class, the class cannot function without each of your voices, and hopefully you will be learning just as much from your classmates as you will from us, ideally even more.

The primary goal of this class is to prepare you to succeed throughout your high school experience in both your English classes and other subjects. Additionally, we firmly believe that your education should reflect your interest and what is currently happening in the world. Therefore, we will be trying to include as many of your passions and interests into the course material as possible. The class has a heavy focus on research, writing, close reading, and various forms of communication details.

Our guiding philosophy:

You have to let teachers teach and learners learn.

It is crucial that you come into class with an attitude that will allow you to focus, collaborate, and work hard. We generally don't like quiet classrooms, but when we are giving mini-lessons, we are having whole class discussions, your peers are presenting, or asking questions, we expect that you will be polite and courteous as you too will need to know the information being covered. During our first couple of classes, we will work together to create more specific classroom norms for behavioral expectations.

Materials

- Charged chromebook or other device to connect to the internet (not a cell phone)
- Pen or pencil
- Highlighter
- Course readings (books, short stories, articles, etc.)
- Headphones

Controversial Material

As previously stated, we would like our class to reflect the world and your interests as much as possible. With that being said, that does mean from time to time we may discuss political ideas, current events, social issues, and other topics that have a wide range of opinions. Each and every member of the class is entitled to their opinion, and each and every member of the class is required to be respectful of all opinions-- regardless of how much you may disagree. Hateful statements of any kind will not be accepted in the class and will be dealt with accordingly. If we begin discussing a topic that you do not wish to engage with, please feel free to see me and we can create an alternative form of assessment for you.

Grading Policy and Late Work

- This course uses the Heritage High School late policy for excused absences: two additional days for each school day missed.
 - Within one week late, you will receive 70% of the grade earned (IE: you earned a 100%, but it was late. You'd get a 70%)
 - If work is more than one week late, you will receive a 50% grade reduction in the gradebook.
 - Late work will only be accepted until the end of a unit.
 - Students who earn an 89.5%, 79.5%, 69.5%, or 59.5% or higher will be rounded up to the next letter grade (ex: a final grade of 79.7% would be rounded up to an B-; however, a 79.4% would still be a C+).
- Eligibility for rounded grade is dependent upon completing the final.**

All major assignments such as papers, presentations and projects will be graded using a specific rubric that you will be provided with prior to submitting your work:

- Writing (papers, speeches, presentations, projects, etc.)
- Reading Comprehension (reading quizzes, reading responses)
- Skill practice (classwork and homework graded based on completion and or accuracy)
- Semester finals

***Homework will be assigned almost every class; however, we do our best to give you a good chunk of time to begin that homework in class. If you don't like having homework, use your class time wisely. Plus we're there to help you, and we're, like, really smart.

Heritage Language Arts Grading Scale

Note the grading scale used in this class:

98-100%=A+	77-79%=C+
93-97%= A	73-76%=C
90-92%= A-	70-72%=C-
87-89%= B+	67-69%=D+
83-86%= B	63-66%=D
80-82%= B-	60-62%=D-
59% and below is an F	

Grading Categories and Weights

- Skill Building–homework, classwork 10%
- Writing Process–outlines, journals, research 10%
- Writing Proficiency–formal written work, presentations 35%
- Reading proficiency–quizzes, tests, projects 30%
- Semester 1 final/ Semester 2 Teen Issues Research Project 15%

PLEASE NOTE

Required:

1. Fees and fines:
 - a. Fines: To ensure that the books are available for the next class, it is important that they are collected in a timely manner; therefore, a \$5 book fine will be charged to all students who fail to hand in their school-issued book on the day they are collected by the teacher. Student accounts will incur the cost of replacing books that are loaned to students that are lost or have significant damage.

- b. Fees: IXL fees are nonrefundable, as this online resource will be used throughout the year.
- 2. Opt Out: For information regarding the [district's opt-out policy](#), please visit the Language Arts department website or the district website.
- 3. Grading and Rounding
 - a. Students who earn an 89.5%, 79.5%, 69.5%, or 59.5% or higher will be rounded up to the next letter grade (ex: a final grade of 79.7% would be rounded up to an B-; however, a 79.4% would still be a C+). Eligibility for rounded grade is dependent upon completing the final.
 - b. Formal writing assignments will be graded using the 6-point AP scale.
 - c. Students can access their grade online during the semester by visiting Infinite Campus.
- 4. Late work:
 - a. Within one week late, you will receive 70% of the grade earned (IE: you earned a 100%, but it was late. You'd get a 70%)
 - b. If work is more than one week late, you will receive a 50% grade reduction in the gradebook.
 - c. Late work will only be accepted until the end of a unit or as announced by the teacher.
 - d. Work turned in that was due during an unexcused absence will be reduced by 50% of the grade earned.
- 5. Plagiarism, AI and Academic Dishonesty:
 - a. As per the [Heritage Student Handbook](#): "Any student plagiarizing written work from the Internet or other sources and/or any person involved in **unauthorized** collaboration with another person on written work will receive no credit for that assignment. In addition, any student receiving or giving unauthorized assistance including via forms of Artificial Intelligence or other forms of technology, will receive a '0.' Further disciplinary action, including potentially the loss of course credit and suspension, may also be warranted depending on the specific nature of the offense. Scholastic dishonesty will be determined by the school administrator based on due process, a preponderance of overall evidence, and a student's portfolio of previous work."
 - b. Scholastic dishonesty is a serious offense that will result in a zero for the assignment and will be dealt with by school administrators. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: cheating, copying, and plagiarizing to guide, brainstorm, draft, or create any student work related to any assignment, including students' projects, class work, written work, and performance tasks.
 - c. Teachers reserve the right to check work for AI and plagiarism. AI detection tools, TurnItIn.com, and other screening platforms may be used.
 - d. Originating documents: when requested by a teacher, originating documents for any assignments (including essays, projects, homework, notes, etc) must be provided. Because of the nature of determining origin, do NOT copy and paste from other documents or websites in order to ensure that all work can demonstrate originality and origin. Failure to provide originating documents when requested may result in a '0.'
- 6. Privacy: In order to protect the privacy of the students in this class, at no time may phones or other devices be used to make a video, picture, or audio recording of the teacher, class, or other students without explicit teacher permission. Pictures, videos, and audio of the teacher, materials, or other people are not allowed unless prompted by the teacher (example: "take a picture of the homework board").

7. Phone & Electronics Policy: The School Board has ruled that classrooms are a no-cell phone space.

a. The LPS Cell Phone Policy will be enforced--no cell phones or smart devices can be used during class. This includes phones, smart watches, earbuds, and other personal devices.

*Notice to Parents/Guardians: If you need to contact your student during this class, please contact Heritage's front office (303.347.7600 ext 0) and they will relay any important messages.

b. Consequences for inappropriate cell phone or other devices use will follow the policies outlined in the [Student Handbook](#).

c. PTD may NOT be taken from the classroom during bathroom breaks. They must be left in pockets or with the teacher.

*Exceptions will be made for students with documented needs as outlined in relevant IEPs, 504s, and HCAPs.

8. Hallway Passes: hallway lanyards will be issued for students to leave the classroom (including bathroom breaks). These will be given at teacher discretion. If students are habitually asking to leave class, the teacher will have a conversation with the student and may limit pass access. Misuse of hallway passes can result in administrative referral.

9. Harassment and Discrimination: Inappropriate language and/or behavior will not be tolerated in any form, and will result in a referral to administration, which could lead to a formal investigation. Students please report any cases of harassment or discrimination to teachers, counselors, or administrators. Please refer to page 9 of the [Student Handbook](#) for additional information.