

Course Syllabus
English I: College Preparation Freshman English
Mr. Aguilar
Heritage Hall, Room D267
(951) 677-0568 ext. #6267
aaguilar@murrieta.k12.ca.us

Welcome to Freshman English! I am looking forward to an exciting and successful year with you! Please read the following syllabus and share the information with your parents.

Course Description

English I meets one of your district graduation requirements. This is a one-year course that must be successfully completed to continue fulfilling the district requirements for graduation. Students will demonstrate reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills using an extensive variety of classical and contemporary essays, short stories, poems, dramas, and novels. Students will develop a firm understanding of literary terminology and strategies, appropriate citations of sources and quotes, as well as a strong foundation in grammar, sentence structure, and mechanics. The structure and execution of the timed multi-paragraph essay will be the focus of the composition element of the fall semester, and the research paper will be the focus of composition in the spring semester.

Text Books and Supplemental Texts

Literature: The Reader's Choice Glencoe and *Grammar and Composition Handbook: Glencoe*

Novels and Independent Reading

The novel we will read this year as a class is *To Kill a Mockingbird*. In addition to reading the assigned novel, students will read 4 novels independently. One novel must be read prior to the six **and** twelve-week progress report dates for each semester. Students will complete a project associated with the novel they have chosen.

Supplies

All students are expected to have the following in class EVERY DAY:

1. 3-ring binder, including the following **five divider sections** (1) Agenda+Warm-ups, (2) Composition, (3) Grammar, (4) Literature, (5) Vocabulary.
2. Loose leaf binder paper (**no spiral-bound, tear-off paper**)
3. Pens: 1 red, 1 black/blue
4. Pencil
5. highlighter

Requirements/Expectations

1. **Attendance:** Regular attendance is essential to furthering the learning process. Your daily attendance in class is imperative in order to be successful. When an excused absence does occur, the student is allowed one day for each absence to turn in any missed assignments. If a test or quiz is missed due to an excused absence, the student will have one week for a make-up. Make-up tests and quizzes will be given before and after school or during PRIDE period. Failure to make-up tests will result in a "zero" unless other arrangements have been made with me.

Absences **MUST be cleared before returning to the next class meeting. **EXCUSED** absences are necessary in order for absent students to turn in make up work. Excessive absences/tardies will lower your grade. *MMHS will **NOT** excuse absences after three school days.

2. **Assignments, including homework:** All assignments are to be turned in on time. **NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED** for full credit. Students may submit an assignment no more than 1 week late for up to 50%. After 1 week no late work will be accepted. Also, any tests missed must be made up (usually before/after school or at lunch) within 1 week. Any work turned in after I have collected it is considered late. Major assignments will

always be due at the beginning of class, BEFORE the day's lesson has begun. Assignments missed due to disciplinary suspension may NOT be made up.

3. **Behavior:** Follow the rules of our classroom and of MMHS. Consequences will be enforced upon refusal to follow the rules.

4. **Grading System:**

Weighted Categories: Below are the five weighted categories for use in ABI that identify types of teacher assessments. Grading will be composed of the total number of points accumulated from the standards areas and weighted as follows:

- I. Assessments **(Assess)** 25%
 - 1. Quizzes
 - 2. Tests
 - 3. presentations
- II. Participation: **(Part.)**= 15%
 - 1. Warm-up activities
 - 2. Captain's Log (agenda)
 - 3. Materials in class DAILY
 - 4. Forms sent home for parent attention
(grade reports, permission slips, signed syllabus, etc.)
- III. Essays / Composition..... **(Comp)** = 25%
- IV. Class assignments **(Assign)**= 15%
- V. Homework **(HW)** = 10%
- VI. Final Exam / End of Course Exam..... **(Final)** = 10%

5. ABI / AERIES on-line grade book:

This technology has the **potential** to assist both parents and students in tracking progress. It also has the potential to cause problems. Each and every time a score is entered, a grade may go up or down. This happens all the time, so please expect the fluctuation. Please note that I must input each and every score (literally thousands each year). Grading and entering data is only PART of my job, so I appreciate patience from you. Planning and teaching has a higher priority than entering scores. I grade and enter scores as I correct a class assignment; therefore, absent make-up and late work scores simply are not entered at the same time that I enter scores for students who submitted the work on the date assigned. You may expect the grades, including absent make-up and late-work scores to be entered by our progress report dates.

Student Name _____

Period _____

Dear Parents,

Please sign this form verifying you have read and understand the course syllabus for **English 1**. If you have comments/questions/concerns, please feel free to call me at (951) 677-0568 ext. #6267. **To reach me ASAP**, or to **communicate more frequently** (my e-mail is the most efficient mode) at: aaguilar@murrieta.k12.ca.us

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Daytime phone number
(Home/Cellular/Work) Circle

Sincerely,

Anthony Aguilar, English Department