

English 8 Senior Composition

Senior Year

Instructor	Mr. Neville	Room	250
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Description

We will focus on improving critical thinking, argumentation, and social awareness of current events and issues occurring in the world to enhance your ability to create coherent, meaningful compositions to make you better overall thinkers and writers. **To this end, you will be required to write several multi-paragraph essays, PLUS two 3½-to 5-page research papers in order to pass this class.**

NOTE: BOTH RESEARCH PAPERS MUST BE COMPLETE/ACCEPTABLE TO PASS THIS CLASS!

Text and Units of Study

English Grammar and Composition: Complete Course

We will cover each of the following in this class:

- Reason and Argumentation
- Critical Thinking and Evaluation of Sources
- Research and Documentation Skills
- Writing Process
- Library Usage
- Current Events/Social Awareness

Expectations

No one is obligated to be responsible for you except you. What and how you do in this class is completely up to you and no one can change that. My response to your work and behavior will vary depending on the individual situations.

Learning Expectations:

You are responsible for completing work as assigned. This includes reading assignment, quizzes, and homework. Additionally, tests will be announced well in advance and you should prepare adequately. Your grade will be a reflection of your effort in this class.

Behavior Expectations and Consequences:

In addition to the abiding by the rules found in the GCHS Student Handbook, you are expected to act appropriately at all times in my classroom. If at any time your behavior is not deemed appropriate, you will be asked to correct that behavior or to remove yourself from the classroom. Your grade will likely reflect your attitude as well as your behavior.

Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, and Cheating:

Plagiarism (purposeful or accidental), cheating, or any other form of academic dishonest will not be tolerated in this class. It is your responsibility to check that your work is properly cited, free of any "lifted" material without mention of the source, and is in fact your own effort.

- **Blatant and/or obvious plagiarism MUST be redone for a reduced score (50% of possible).**
- **If the redone work is found to be plagiarized, 1 point will be given for the assignment of whatever is possible.**
- **Instances of plagiarism may result in intervention—or as a disciplinary referral in more severe cases—In Skyward.**

Likewise, cheating in any form will result in a zero for the assignment as well as disciplinary actions. Examples of cheating are as follow (but not limited to): copying answers or other information (or allowing others to copy) on any assignment, taking another person’s work as your own, or using any form of a study aid during examinations and the like.

It is solely at the instructor’s discretion to determine academic dishonesty.

Nuts and Bolts

Seats and the Leaving the Room:

You are to be in your assigned seats at all times when you are in this room. If you need to take care of something before the bell rings, do so on your own. Just be sure to be in your seats when the bell rings. ***You will be tardy if you are not in your assigned seat when the bell rings.***

You will be given the latitude to leave the room to use the restroom, go to your locker, or perform other “errands” as you see fit. ***Understand that if you leave the room during class, this is at your discretion, is your decision, and you will receive a tardy.***

Homework and Late Assignments:

You will be given one opportunity to turn in homework during the class. Any homework not turned in when requested will not be accepted.

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED IN THIS CLASS!

Written work (essays and research papers) are the only exception to this rule. Assignments of this type will be reduced 10% per day.

UNDERSTAND: ANY RESEARCH PAPER MORE THAN TWO WEEKS OVERDUE WILL RECEIVE 1 POINT OF WHATEVER IS POSSIBLE AND IT IS VERY LIKELY YOU WILL FAIL THIS CLASS!

**Absolutely no research work will be accepted
after the first Friday of May.
NO EXCPTIONS!**

Website and Missing Work or Absences:

I have set up a website for this class that can be accessed from your home as well as from the Media Center. All assignments will be posted to this site so you will have access to the work we do daily. It is your responsibility to get any work that you miss. Become familiar with the website as soon as possible. Losing your work or forgetting the assignment is not an excuse. If you are absent, the student handbook takes effect. Be familiar with the rules in your handbook.

Electronic Devices:

Use of electronic device is at the instructor's discretion. You are encouraged to use your smartphones to "Google things" that you need to know. Understand that beyond educational purposes, electronic devices are detrimental to your learning, harmful to your social existence and your life, and could be lowering your intelligence. Additionally, if they become a class problem, they will be dealt with accordingly, including have them removed from the class.

ANY use of an electronic device during testing will be considered cheating; the offender will be given a zero on the exam.

End-of-Period Dismissal:

Remain in your seats and ready to work at all times when class is in session. Do not pack your things five minutes before the bell and do not jump up when the bell rings. I will dismiss you from class.

Grades:

Your grade in this class will be based on the percentages broken into three categories: Writing/Assessments (40%), Research (40%), and Classwork (20%). Grades will be assigned per the grade scale below:

A = 100 - 90

B = 89 - 80

C = 79 - 70

D = 69 - 60

The final exam for this class IS REQUIRED and will count for 20% of the overall grade.

Note: Due to a variety of issues that may arise during the semester, this syllabus is subject to change at instructor's discretion.