

**Ninth Grade English**

**ELCO High School**

**Mr. Jonathan Bickel, Teacher**

**Class Rules and General Course Information for Students and Parents**

**Class Preparation** - Students should be prepared to work in class each day before the late bell rings; this includes the gathering of materials and the sharpening of pencils. When students enter the room, assignments will be posted on the overhead or chalkboard, so students should begin immediately. Each student should bring a notebook, a textbook, a grammar book, and writing materials including a black or blue pen. All rough drafts that are typed should be in black ink. All rough drafts that are not typed should be written in black or blue ink. **Frequent failure to come to class prepared will result in detention.**

Students must bring the textbook assigned to them before they are allowed to take the final exam on finals day. Any student returning the wrong book at the end of the year will be required to pay the replacement cost of the book assigned to him.

**Classroom Behavior** - **Each student should present himself in a professional manner in accordance with the rules and regulations section of the student handbook. Any improper behavior may result in detention.**

**Tardiness** - Any student late for class must have a pass from the person who detained him. Without a late pass, any oral quiz or test questions given in class will not be repeated. Also, any extra time on written work will not be given. If a student is habitually late, detention will be assigned; details of this policy can be found in the student handbook.

**Bathroom Policy** - The school policy pertaining to lav passes will be followed. Preferably, bathroom passes will be signed before the late bell to save interruptions and avoid wasting class time. The number of passes signed will be at the teacher's discretion. If ever an emergency arises, the student should inform the teacher and arrangements can be made at any time.

**Homework** - All homework and assignments are due on the assigned day, at the beginning of the class period, unless otherwise specified. Any student absent on the due date will be required to turn in the homework the day he returns to class. In case of an extended absence, more time will be given.

**Food Policy** - There will be no food or soda allowed during class without my permission. Special circumstances may allow food depending on the activity. Water bottles are permitted unless otherwise specified.

**Makeup Work** - When a student is absent from school, the student must see the teacher to make arrangements to complete any missed assignments. A “reasonable” amount of time will be given to a student according to the length of the absence; usually three days are sufficient. If a student is absent during writing time in class, this may require work done at home in order to bring himself up to the class time table. This is for the student’s benefit and will prevent him from falling too far behind his classmates.

If the student has missed a test, it is his responsibility to contact the teacher the day he returns in order to make arrangements for the makeup test. If the student knows he will miss class, it is his responsibility to tell the teacher before that class period.

### **Writing Assignments**

Writing is a complex process and is, as all communicative skills are, social in nature. In the past, writing was often taught by teachers who lectured about writing techniques and skills and then made writing assignments which were to be completed at home, in private, with no help from anyone else.

The truth is, no professional writer would ever even consider writing in this way. Professional writers seek out ideas from others; they share their works in progress with trusted colleagues, and they listen carefully to thoughtful response and criticism from their readers. It is this kind of collaborative writing atmosphere that the writers’ workshop is designed to reproduce.

Each student will have the opportunity to write, to share his or her compositions with a response group, to hear constructive feedback, and to give the same to others in the group. Students will write a narrative, a persuasive paragraph, persuasive debate paper and several essays. One day a week students will use the MyAccess writing program to practice the skills learned in class.

**My Access** is an online writing program that allows students to practice various prompts and styles of writing with immediate feedback. This program will be featured in class at least once a week.

### **Reading Across the Curriculum**

Students will read for the first 15 minutes of class each Monday. Students are required to bring their own novel to class. Failure to bring reading materials may result in a trip to the office.

## **Literature**

Students will read and critically analyze short stories and poems by various authors found in their literature books. In addition students will read Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

## **Skill Development**

Lessons in grammar will be taught each day. Editing and grammar skills are essential in doing well on freshmen testing exams. SAT's and PSAT's also have sections that include these areas.

## **Vocabulary**

Every Friday students will receive their vocabulary packets. Unless otherwise specified, the completed vocabulary packet will be due the following Tuesday. There will be a vocabulary test the following Friday and a new packet will be given out. Students will also be tested on the Reading Anchor Assessment Glossary sheet. These words will appear on the PSSA test. The students will also have vocabulary words that are found in the literature they will be reading.

## **Getting Organized**

Each student is required to keep a notebook. This notebook should have four parts to it: a section for notes on core literature and authors, a section for grammar notes, a place to keep all checked and returned reader responses, and a place to keep all writing. Notebooks will be checked for a grade throughout the semester.

**Grading Policy** - Grades will be based on points earned on writing assignments, reading assignments, quizzes, and tests. To compute grades at the end of a marking period, the total amount of points possible will be divided into the amount of points earned. A percentage grade will be derived from this division. Extra credit assignments may be offered throughout the marking period. Check the student handbook for the grade scale.

**Extra Help** - Students who are failing my class at any time during the semester must have all of their assignments completed. If a student is failing, he or she will be notified on Tuesday of that week. The student may stay after school on Wednesday until 3:15 to work on missed assignments or get extra help. If the student does not stay on Wednesday and he or she does not turn in all of the missing assignments, he or she will receive a detention from me as well as a phone call to the parent or guardian.

**PowerGrade** - Each student should check his grade and completed assignments on a daily basis using this web portal. Please contact the guidance department if you are unable to use the system or if you have any questions.

Please keep the top half of this paper. Cut out the bottom section and return the completed signature section back to me. Thanks.

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Mr. Bickel's Class Rules and General Guidelines

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_