

7th Grade English/Creative Writing Syllabus

Ms. Jennifer Jacobs

Welcome!

Below are some guidelines and expectations for the upcoming school year. I look forward to working closely with my students and their parents/guardians to enable them to achieve excellence in their academic career.

Student Expectations/Classroom Rules:

Attend class regularly.

Bring all materials to class.

Get makeup work from Schoology, ParentSquare, or another student before asking me.

Pay attention to your own learning.

Ask questions when you don't understand.

Be positive and give 100% every day.

Be well-mannered, polite, and respectful to yourself and others.

Make corrections if something is wrong (work and behavior).

Breakdown of Assessments and Descriptions:

Major Assessments are worth 65% of total grade.

Tests: Normal standards test for evaluating cognitive level of skill/concept. These can be multiple choice, matching, essay, etc.

Projects: These are considered alternative assessments and strive to display skills and concept achievement when producing material. Most projects require students to utilize the skills they have learned and to pay attention to communicating to an audience in a clear, professional, and accurate manner. Projects offer real-world skills and real life production of career-oriented materials.

Portfolios: These are also alternative assessments and are usually completed when students are building on skills such as writing. Portfolios are a collection of the student's work so that the process and end result can be evaluated together as a whole. An example would be work from pre-writing, first draft, peer reviewed draft, and final draft all turned in together for a major grade.

Minor Assessments are worth 35% of total grade.

Classwork: Most classwork is completed during class hours rather than at home. Classwork usually consists of skill building activities, mini quizzes, or exit slips. Students are expected to keep up with work they complete in class. A folder or notebook will aid the students with this skill. Assignments can always be found on Schoology or Parent Square.

Homework: I do not give much homework other than learning new vocabulary words every two weeks. Homework is usually given as an opportunity for students to finish classwork that they needed extra time on. Due dates for homework are given in class, posted on Schoology, and usually sent out on Parent Square.

Grading Policy for Late Work:

Students have until Friday at the end of the week to get classwork/homework turned in without penalty. If it is turned in the next week, the work will be counted as half credit if it is complete. The work is turned in the next week and is not complete, the work may receive a 50 or less depending upon how much is done. Work for absent students is not considered late until their makeup time has run out (see Student Handbook).

Parent Resources:

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

7 AM - 4 PM

Communication:

Fastest for Parents - ParentSquare message or email message

Fastest for Student: Schoology or teacher email

jennifer.jacobs@acboe.net

Questions about the class: Teacher Website

Parent Rights Act: 7th grade syllabus, pacing guide, my class schedule, classroom materials used, and lesson plans. (www.marburymiddle.com/jenniradfer-jacobs)

Assignments, Stories, Materials, Due Dates:

Schoology

Plagiarism:

There are two categories of plagiarism: intentional and unintentional. As we begin to learn to cite our sources this year, mistakes in how the student cites the source is

expected; however, after the first quarter, there should be no reason why the student should fail to include *any* citation. The wrong citation at least shows the student knows the idea doesn't belong to him or her, whereas a lack of citation altogether shows a disregard for giving credit to another person's ideas. After the first quarter, failure to cite sources altogether will result in major point deductions and/or failure of assignment. I always remind students to cite sources in the instructions of the assignment or test; there is no reason the student should fail to include them.

Blatant copying of another work in order to escape doing your own work is always intentional plagiarism. This kind of plagiarism constitutes cheating and will result in a failing grade on the assignment.

Also, the use of AI to complete an essay or an assignment will also constitute a failing grade because the essay/answer wasn't generated by the student; this still constitutes cheating because someone else did the work. Redoing the assignment is at the sole discretion of the teacher.

Let's have a great year!

Ms. J