

English II
Ms. Rollins – Room 107
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Why do we study English? If we speak the language, isn't that enough? If we were born here, doesn't that make us experts? The answer to the first question is not as straightforward as you may think. English is not simply an exploration into the language that we speak. It is an examination into what makes us human – our faults, our strengths, our weaknesses.

Throughout this semester, we will be reading literature from multiple genres and time periods. Each piece will connect to the larger question of our place in the world and what it means to be human. We will examine short stories, novels and dramas, as well as film and other media, all with these questions in mind. My hope is that throughout the year, you reflect on why you are here and begin to observe the world around you as you make your way to becoming an educated and informed citizen in our society.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, you will be able to

- identify and interpret literary devices to explore author's purpose and theme
- apply concepts of grammar and punctuation into your writing to improve clarity
- understand difficult vocabulary and techniques to find meaning
- develop skills in all modes of writing – narrative, informative and persuasive
- evaluate, incorporate and cite a variety of sources into your writing
- reflect on your own writing and understand how revision is a vital part of the writing process

Student Responsibilities

After having been at the high school for a year now, you should be aware of the responsibilities that accompany being a student at LHS. You should expect occasional homework, whether reading or writing. You are expected to be prepared for class each day which means having a pen or pencil, notebook or binder and homework assignments ready to go. While I understand and sympathize that many of you are busy with sports, band, clubs, family, etc., I will not accept excuses for being unprepared.

Classroom Policies

Attendance: Absences mean that you will miss out on important material; therefore, regular classroom attendance is expected. A good way to find out what you've missed is to ask a fellow classmate. Remember, in the event that you are absent, it is **YOUR** responsibility to check **AFTER SCHOOL** (not before, during, or after class) to see what you have missed. You have **5 SCHOOL DAYS** to do so.

Tardiness: Being late to class is unacceptable. I will assign one day of detention upon your **3rd** tardy to class. On your **4th** tardy, I will assign two detention days.

Conduct: Be respectful to your classmates and me, and follow **ALL** rules listed in your LHS Student/Parent Handbook. That means no cell phones, food, etc... in my classroom.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is an attempt to pass off someone else's work as your own, whether it is a copied homework assignment or an essay that contains material that contains material copied off of the Internet. Any student caught plagiarizing will receive a **ZERO** for that assignment, and a call will be made to that student's parent or guardian. Please see page 5 of your Student/Parent Handbook for additional information.

Deadlines: For the most part, deadlines are firm. If there is any time you need an extension, please ask me ahead of time. The night before does not count as "ahead of time," and homework is not taken late.

Grading

I grade using a 100 point scale. Please see below for a breakdown:

- First Nine Weeks
 1. daily assignments/homework: 25%
 2. essays, quizzes, tests: 50%
 3. Nine Weeks Test: 25%

- Second Nine Weeks

Keep in mind that the weight averages change, as there is a Semester Exam that accounts for 33% of your entire grade.

Throughout the semester, you will have the opportunity to earn bonus point and other rewards, so always do your best! Remember that I am available before or after school (make sure to schedule in advance) if you need assistance with anything.

I am excited to have you in my class and look forward to a fantastic semester of learning!

English II Expectations

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the expectations in Ms. Rollins' class.

Teacher Signature _____ **Date** _____
Student Name (Printed) _____
Student Signature _____ **Date** _____