

## Mrs. Kingsbury's English Syllabus or "How to Get an 'A' from Mrs. K"

The English guide is a document that I will provide you each term to let you know the specific requirements for that term. It will give updated information so that you know what is going to be studied and approximate timelines. Obviously, some fluctuation may occur based on how long activities take us and what I see develop that needs additional instruction or is easier than expected.

Our basic schedule will look like this: Mondays will be devoted to grammar concepts (sometimes basics that come from the common core, sometimes things I notice needing work in students' writing and classwork). Wednesdays will usually center around vocabulary. Thus, vocabulary quizzes and the next list (with the subsequent assignments) will both happen that day. This allows you time to study your vocabulary over the weekend or budget your time to be ready for the next Wednesday. Fridays will somehow be wrapped up in reading. You'll focus on informative reading, stories, reading strategies and taking quizzes or working on projects based on your independent reading.

Learning targets for English class will be based on the common core for English. The list of learning targets is fairly extensive; therefore, specific targets will be posted in class and on the Weebly planner board each day. Keeping track of the expected learning in each unit will help keep you on track. Each term there will be a clear list shared with you on my website to be sure you know more specifically what will be covered for that term. We will work on reading fiction and non-fiction text, writing, public speaking, grammar and vocabulary.

Reasonable Best Effort: This is the standard for English class. No two people write the same, and there is often more than one way to look at a story or text. In everything you are expected to do your best and try it even if you are unsure of your answer.

- All assignments are expected to be turned in on time (when they are called for in class). This allows class to function at its fullest potential.
- They also must be neat, legible and according to directions (making it easier on you, your classmates and me when we want to look at something you have done).
- Work not done electronically must be done in #2 pencil or blue or black ink (again to make it easier to read).
- Always include your first and last name, the due date and your English hour on the page (again, making life easier!)
- It's English class; unless you are told otherwise, all work must be in complete sentences.

Practice and preparation will make up 30% of your overall grade. This will include daily journal writing (2 points per day), worksheets, brainstorming and pre-writing, vocabulary practice, mini-presentations, impromptu speeches, quick check quizzes over the reading, questions on the story, etc. Most assignments are worth 5 points each. In order to be able to fully function in class, these things will need to be done on time.

Assessments, writing and projects will make up 70% of your overall grade. This will include assessment of grammar (generally on Mondays), vocabulary quizzes (Wednesdays), essays, quizzes and tests on reading (generally Fridays), prepared speeches, projects on novels and research projects. Most quizzes and tests will have the option to retake. There will be specific guidelines on how to approach that in each term's English guide.

I will be available before and after school or during lunch to discuss any concerns, questions or problems you may be having with the material, your grade or the class. It is always best to make arrangements in advance to see me as I can sometimes be hard to track down. The best time to get extra help may be during passing time for PACK. Please be sure to use that time well! I am always willing to help find solutions to whatever difficulties you are having with the material, but I don't know there is a problem unless you ask.

<u>Scale:</u>	A+	100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	0-59%
	A	93-99%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%		
	A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		

## CLASS DISCUSSION

**CONVERSATION:** LEVEL 3 VOICE,  
ONE AT A TIME

**HELP:** RAISE HAND, WAIT TURN

**ACTIVITY:** DISCUSSION ON LESSON/TOPIC

**MOVEMENT:** SEATED

**PARTICIPATION:** ALERT, ATTENTIVE, THOUGHTFUL,  
PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE.

## WORKING IN GROUPS

**CONVERSATION:** LEVEL 2 VOICE

**HELP:** RAISE HAND, 15 SECOND RULE

**ACTIVITY:** COMPLETE ASSIGNED TASK,  
STAY ON-TOPIC

**MOVEMENT:** PURPOSEFULLY TO GET MATERIALS

**PARTICIPATION:** WORK WITH ASSIGNED GROUP,  
CONTRIBUTE TO TASK

## TEACHER-LED

**CONVERSATION:** LEVEL 0

**HELP:** RAISE YOUR HAND

**ACTIVITY:** TAKE NOTES, RESPOND  
APPROPRIATELY

**MOVEMENT:** IN SEAT, WRITING NOTES,  
REQUESTED RESPONSES

**PARTICIPATION:** RESPONDING, ALERT, WRITING

## INDEPENDENT WORK

**CONVERSATION:** LEVEL 1 WITH PARTNER  
ONLY FOR QUESTION

**HELP:** RAISE HAND, 15 SECOND RULE

**ACTIVITY:** VARIOUS ASSIGNMENTS

**MOVEMENT:** WORKING ONLY

**PARTICIPATION:** WORK ON ASSIGNMENT, WHEN  
DONE READ OR DO HMWK

## ENTERING CLASS

**CONVERSATION:** LEVEL 2 VOICE TO  
BELL, LEVEL 0 AFTER

**HELP:** RAISE HAND, 15 SECOND RULE

**ACTIVITY:** BE IN SEAT, START WARM-UP

**MOVEMENT:** BEFORE BELL TO PREPARE

**PARTICIPATION:** IN SEAT FOR WARM-UP  
AT BELL

## SHARPENING PENCIL

**CONVERSATION:** LEVEL 0

**HELP:** RAISE PENCIL, WAIT FOR SILENT SIGNAL

**ACTIVITY:** WHEN GIVEN PERMISSION

**MOVEMENT:** USE DIRECT PATH, DO NOT  
DISRUPT OTHERS

**PARTICIPATION:** USE EQUIPMENT RESPECTFULLY

## RETURN FROM ABSENCE

**CONVERSATION:** LEVEL 1 VOICE

**HELP:** DURING WARM-UP, SEE PLANNER,  
ASK PARTNER

**ACTIVITY:** GET WORK/NOTES/INFO MISSED

**MOVEMENT:** SEE TEACHER TO TURN IN WORK,  
GET WORK FROM FILES

**PARTICIPATION:** GET WORK MISSED, TURN IN  
MISSED ITEMS, ASK QUESTIONS

## TESTS/QUIZZES

**CONVERSATION:** LEVEL 0 UNTIL  
ALL ARE FINISHED

**HELP:** RAISE HAND, 15 SECOND RULE

**ACTIVITY:** COMPLETE ASSESSMENT ON TIME

**MOVEMENT:** SEATED, ASSESSING ONLY

**PARTICIPATION:** ASSESSING, WHEN COMPLETED  
CAN READ OR DO HMWK