

General Course Description:

Welcome to grade 9 English Language Arts! This course will challenge students to improve upon analytical, reading, writing, oral communication, and thinking skills. Students will study and interpret challenging texts from modern and historical periods including novels, short stories, plays and film.

Big Ideas:

1. Language and story can be a source of creativity and joy.
2. Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.
3. People understand text differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives.
4. Texts are socially, culturally, and historically constructed.
5. Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.

Instruction:

Students will learn through a wide variety of instructional strategies that will provide learning opportunities that scaffold learning, and accommodate a variety of learning styles, interests and abilities. For example:

- ✓ Small group & class discussions;
- ✓ Analysis (in class) writing assignments;
- ✓ Creative writing assignments;
- ✓ Traditional lectures;
- ✓ Presentations; unit quizzes, tests, and essays

Assessment:

Formative assessment opportunities are entrenched in the instructional activities in each unit, and summative assessment will take place within each unit. Both assessment types will provide the teacher a clear picture of the students' learning, and the student with meaningful feedback.

- 1) Connecting (Engaging & Questioning)
- 2) Processing
- 3) Analyzing & Interpreting
- 4) Valuing Identity & Voice
- 5) Constructing & Creating

Note: All ELA 9 Curricular Competencies ([VIEW](#)) can be found on the Ministry of Education website. The Proficiency categories are explained below.

Classroom Expectations:

- ✓ Students must be courteous and respectful at all times.
- ✓ Students must come to class fully prepared: Chrome books or laptops or tablets.
- ✓ Students must come to class on time. It is school policy that students arriving to class after the second bell must receive a late slip from the office before entering their class.

Non-Negotiable!

- ✓ Students must arrive to class in full uniform. Appropriate Notre Dame attire only. Any Non-approved items will be confiscated for the remainder of the day.
- ✓ No cell phones or electronic devices are allowed during instruction time.
- ✓ Work must be completed on time and will mainly be completed in class; parents will also be contacted if assignments are continually missing or late.

Note: We will participate in numerous classroom activities and simulations during this school year. In order to be successful in this class you must give your best effort and attempt to participate in all activities. Failure to do so will negatively affect your grade and reduce your understanding of the course material.

Absences:

- ✓ Students who are absent from class are responsible for completing all work that was missed during their absence (website and Google classroom).
- ✓ Students should make every effort to return to class prepared. In order to do this, it is important that you contact me directly (in person or via email) or consult the course webpage before returning to class.
- ✓ Students who are absent on the day of a test, must have their parents phone me or bring in a signed note to explain the reason for absence.
- ✓ Students who miss tests must come to see me immediately to arrange a re-write.

Course Materials:

Most of the course materials will be available on Mr. DiDonato's website. You will be asked to print off most required materials from the webpage. Each unit is broken down with worksheets and dates here: <http://mdidonatoclassroom.weebly.com>.

Everything else will be available on Google Classroom (code depends on block).

Units: TERM 1

1. MLA formatting
2. Introduction to paragraph writing i
3. Narrative paragraphs
4. Short stories
5. Paragraph writing ii

Units: TERM 2

1. Ted Talk
2. Essay writing
3. Independent novel study
4. Shakespeare

Units: TERM 3

1. Introduction to print journalism
2. Poetry
3. Putting it all together

Proficiency Categories

	Incomplete	Insufficient	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
P R O F I C I E N C Y	The student is missing several formative and summative learning tasks to adequately assess understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates little or no understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.
	The student has some knowledge and skill. However, mark is incomplete because of several key pieces of assessment.	A student with insufficient skill has minimal or no understanding of the concept being taught despite support and opportunities to practice.	A student with emerging skill is in the beginning of their journey for this skill. They have minimal understanding of the concept being taught and require reteaching and additional opportunities to practice.	The student has some knowledge and skill. There is a clear pattern to their mistakes. They need coaching to correct misunderstandings and additional practice.	At this level, the student is able to demonstrate this skill consistently and accurately. Mistakes are minor and easily addressed in quick conferences.	This student is able to demonstrate deep understanding of work produced independently. This student is ready for new challenges to extend their thinking.
	INC	- INS +	- EME +	- DEV +	- PRO +	- EXT +