



**JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL**  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



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## ENGLISH 9

English 9 classes approach English Language Arts with an emphasis on building students' reading ability, thinking skills, and sense of efficacy. Students will gain the confidence, experience, and skills critical for literacy success and, most importantly, see themselves as successful students. Our curriculum at JFK English 9 includes independent reading as well as a literacy curriculum designed by Pebble Creek Labs, which emphasizes expository and literary texts aligned to the ELA Common Core State Standards.

Kimberly Ashcraft  
Kimberly-Ashcraft@scusd.edu  
Check grades on Infinite Campus via [www.scusd.edu](http://www.scusd.edu)

### Texts

Thematically grouped literary and expository texts included in the curriculum (provided by the teacher).  
*Holt Literature and Language Arts*- will be used exclusively in class. Students will not need to bring it home.

### Required Materials:

Standard college ruled notebook paper  
Planner or calendar to write homework assignments  
Pencils, pens (blue or black ink)  
A classroom folder/notebook will be supplied and kept in the classroom.

### Grading Policy

All assignments are worth points and grades will be calculated based on the amount of points earned in each category. Most work will be completed in class, during class time. Work will be divided into the following categories:

- **Knowledge** (40%) Demonstration of content knowledge, intended to assess comprehension
- **Product** (40%) Demonstration of task mastery, intended to assess progress towards skills-based objective
- **Process** (20%) Practice necessary towards content and skills mastery, most daily classwork

### Course Objectives

In addition to developing and improving the reading, writing, thinking and other literacy skills described in the above course description, students in English 9 will learn academic reading, writing and speaking skills. Attention will be focused on how to interact with text and how to think critically about what you've read. Students will engage in learning that is aligned to the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts.

### Academic Expectations

- We are here to learn together. We are a community as well as individuals and we should limit all distractions from interrupting our academic mission, such as texting, eating, drinking, working on other things, sleeping, rude behavior, long walks to the bathroom, etc.
- Attendance is vital. Should you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you've missed so it would be helpful to enlist a study buddy.
- Completing work on time is critical to ensure learning.
- Students will enter the classroom ready for class. This means removing any hats, hoods and earphones and putting away cellphones or Ipods.
- As soon as the bell rings, students will work practice reading with a student chosen reading book.
- Students will be given two hall passes per quarter. It is your responsibility to hold on to them. If passes are lost or stolen, the instructor will not replace them. At the end of the semester, the passes can be used for extra credit work.



Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year.

This 20 point assignment requires parents/guardians and students to read and understand the policies and expectations that are clearly stated in Ms. Ashcraft's English 9 Syllabus. This syllabus is located on the web at <http://jfk.scusd.edu>.

*Please return this signed paper for credit. Due:* \_\_\_\_\_

I truly look forward to working with your child.

Sincerely,

Ms. Ashcraft

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

English period: \_\_\_\_\_

Email is the best way to contact me and keep you informed about class activities and your child's progress in class.

If you have questions or concerns now or through the year, please contact me at [Kimberly-Ashcraft@scusd.edu](mailto:Kimberly-Ashcraft@scusd.edu)