



English 9
Ms. Ashcraft
Email- kimberly-ashcraft@scusd.edu

2021-2022 English 9 Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will use predominantly materials from CSU’s Expository Reading and Writing Course. The goal of this social justice focused curriculum is to prepare you for the rigorous reading and writing tasks you will encounter in college and career settings.

EXPECTATIONS AND GOALS: In this course, you will work to develop stronger ownership over your learning, focusing on social-emotional learning competencies as you engage in reading, writing, listening, and speaking tasks.

SELF-AWARENESS: Together, you’ll work to identify your emotions, perceptions, and strengths. Understanding yourself in relationship to others is key to comprehending texts and the perspectives in the texts that you read. You’ll also recognize and communicate what types of reading are interesting to you. Self-confidence and self-efficacy, in your ability to grow as a reader, writer, thinker, and learner are central to your literacy skill development.

SELF-MANAGEMENT: Impulse control, self-discipline, goal setting, organizational skills as well as self-motivation are all critical aspects needed to learn any content, especially in developing your academic language and literacy skills.

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS: Relationship building, communication with others, social engagement, and teamwork are all very important to learning any content especially literacy. Class participation is an essential aspect of this class. It takes a village to develop academic literacy and you will be part of that village in this class!

RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING: Identifying and solving problems in your thinking, writing, and communication with others, as well as analyzing situations in texts and issues are important to your learning. Your collaboration and communication with other students are also essential to your learning. You will be evaluating the credibility of sources, evidence, and arguments, reflecting on your thinking, and engaging in ethical, social responsibility for your actions in a learning environment. You will also be making important decisions as you write, provide feedback to help others improve their writing, and revise your writing in collaboration with the teacher and your classmates.



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SOCIAL AWARENESS: You will be participating in perspective-taking on topics and themes from readings, demonstrating empathy for characters, people impacted by issues, and other students in class as you share ideas. Social awareness is a huge component of literacy skill development. You will collaborate and engage in respectful discussions where you will need to appreciate the diversity of backgrounds and ideas and show respect for others.

COURSE MATERIALS: We will primarily use a digital platform for instruction this year, students must access the content of this class through an electronic device connected to the internet. Please contact the instructor or school staff if there is ever a technical issue with your device so that we can get you connected again as soon as possible. We will be using a digital electronic journal this year, as evidence of the critical-thinking, learning, reading, and writing students will be doing in this course. Handwritten writing can be submitted by uploading digital pictures in google classroom assignments.

GRADING POLICY/LATE WORK POLICY: Since one of the goals in this course is to develop ownership over learning, points for completed work will be based on frequently written reflections, classwork, projects and the final exam. You will set independent learning goals throughout the year and then demonstrate evidence of your achievement. The grade book will remain updated to provide one source of data for you to draw from as you provide evidence and explain the significance of your learning. Content will be delivered each week, and you will be responsible for staying up to date with assignments to reflect and explain your significant learning gains.

GRADE SCALE: Grades will be posted following the SCUSD grade scale.
A = 89.5% - 100%, B = 79.5% - 89.4%, C = 69.5% - 79.4%, D = 59.5% - 69.4%, F= 58% - 50%