

Syllabus and Pacing Guide

LANGUAGE ARTS 9

Semester 1

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to develop students' reading, writing, and analytical skills through a focus on grammar, the writing process, and literary analysis. Students will gain experience with MLA format, identifying credible sources, incorporating evidence, and crafting argumentative essays. Grammar, narrative structure, and figurative language are integrated throughout.

This is the first semester of a 2-semester (full-year) course.

COURSE STANDARDS

Visit the next lesson page for a full list of the course's core standards.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Use MLA formatting and avoid plagiarism
- Incorporate and analyze textual evidence
- Differentiate between paraphrasing and summarizing
- Understand and analyze plot and character development
- Identify narrative elements and figurative language
- Strengthen grammar and sentence construction
- Navigate the writing process from planning to revision
- Write and revise a complete argumentative essay

COURSE SUBMISSIONS

All assignments will be graded through OnFire. Any attachments must be made in a Word document file, PDF, or Google Doc shareable link and turned in through OnFire or directly to the instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTS - IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR SEMESTER 2

In **Language Arts 9 – Semester 2**, students will be required to select and read a novel for independent literary analysis and assignments. Please refer to the **approved book selection list attached below this syllabus**.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Internet access & course platform login

- Google Docs or Word for writing
- Access to an online library or research tools

COMPETENCY EXAMS AND PRE-ASSESSMENTS

A competency exam, also known as a competency-based assessment, is usually a form of measurement created by instructors that follows the learning outcomes and objectives of the prospective course. The competency exam can be in the form of a standard test that includes multiple-choice questions, true-false, and short-answer.

Competency exams are **OPTIONAL**. Students who may not feel comfortable taking the competency exam can skip it. Competency exams do not go against a student's grade and will not hurt a student's grade, regardless of the score they receive.

In order for students to demonstrate competency in a competency exam, they must receive at least 70% or higher on the assessments. If students receive less than 70%, they will be asked to go through the course normally. If students receive 70% or higher, they will be potentially exempted from certain learning outcomes, assignments, and modules in the course.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

A 94-100%	C 73-76%
A- 90-93%	C- 70-72%
B+ 87-89%	D+ 67-69%
B 83-87%	D 63-66%
B- 80-82%	D- 59-63%
C+ 77-79%	F 58% or below

GRADED WEIGHT OF SCHOOLWORK

- It is important to note that you will receive unlimited attempts on all assignments and quizzes until you demonstrate mastery of the content. All quizzes will be randomized and do not show the correct answer, which makes it important to read the lesson material **BEFORE** taking the quiz and completing the assignments.
- **Assignments: 25%**
 - There are eight assignments within LA 9, Semester 1.
- **Quizzes: 40%**

- You have an unlimited number of attempts on these quizzes. There are 30 quizzes.
- **Narrative Project and Final Argumentative Essay: 20%**
- **Post-Assessment Term/Quarter 1 & 2: 15%**
 - You will have one attempt for each post-assessment.
- **Competency Exams: 0%** (Doesn't go against final grade)

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS AND PACING

A typical semester course at a traditional high school requires 80 hours in total, which is 40 hours per term. Since this is a self-paced course, completing it may take you longer or shorter. You are expected to spend 3-5 hours each week and submit at least one unit each.

Students will be allowed to complete the course at a pace that best suits them. The students will be responsible for completing and turning in all assignments according to their individual needs.

Parents/Guardians will be able to observe and view their student's progress through OnFire.

It is suggested that you put the assignments in your calendar at the beginning of the semester so you know which work to complete each week.

Week 1	<p>Unit 1: Welcome!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure to read the syllabus. • If you choose to complete the Competency Exam, please complete it this week. If you decide not to, simply skip this. <p>Unit: MLA Format, Plagiarism, and Grammar Basics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Assignment: MLA Format ◦ Quiz: MLA Format ◦ Quiz: Plagiarism
Week 2	<p>Unit: MLA Format, Plagiarism, and Grammar Basics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Grammar Basics ◦ Quiz: Parts of Speech <p>Unit: Incorporating Evidence & Main Idea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Incorporating Evidence

Week 3	Unit: Incorporating Evidence & Main Idea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Incorporating Evidence Practice ◦ Quiz: Main Idea ◦ Quiz: Finding the Main Idea
Week 4	Unit: Annotated Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Assignment: Annotated Notes ◦ Quiz: Paraphrase versus Summarize
Week 5	Unit: Annotated Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Unit: Plot Structure & Characters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Plot Structure ◦ Quiz: All Summer in a Day
Week 6	Unit: Plot Structure & Characters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Literary Evidence Unit: Narrative Elements & Figurative Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Narrative Elements ◦ Quiz: Figurative Language
Week 7	Unit: Narrative Elements & Figurative Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Figurative Language Practice ◦ Quiz: The Ones Who Walk Away Unit: LA 9 T1 Post-Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start the Narrative Project
Week 8	Unit: LA 9 T1 Post-Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Narrative Project ◦ LA 9 T1 Post-Assessment

Week 9	<p>Unit: Welcome to Language Arts 9 Term 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the LA 9 Term 2 Competency Exams (Optional) <p>Unit: Sentences & Verbs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Grammar - Sentences ◦ Quiz: Grammar - Verbs
Week 10	<p>Unit: Traits of Writing & Writing Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Assignment: Traits of Writing ◦ Quiz: Traits of Writing Practice ◦ Quiz: Traits of Writing
Week 11	<p>Unit: Traits of Writing & Writing Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: The Writing Process <p>Unit: Writing an Argumentative Essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Writing an Argumentative Essay ◦ Quiz: Identifying Topic Ideas
Week 12	<p>Unit: Writing an Argumentative Essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Assignment: Final Topic Idea ◦ Quiz: Analyzing A Sample Essay ◦ Quiz: Identifying Logos, Pathos, Ethos, & The Main Idea
Week 13	<p>Unit: Credible Sources & Creating an Outline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: ABCs of Credible Research ◦ Assignment: Evaluating Credible Sources
Week 14	<p>Unit: Credible Sources & Creating an Outline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Creating an Outline ◦ Argumentative Essay Outline
Week 15	<p>Unit: Essay Draft & Revision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Making an Essay Draft ◦ Argumentative Essay Draft #1

Week 16	Unit: Essay Draft & Revision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Writing a Conclusion ◦ Quiz: Revising & Editing ◦ Peer Review of Argumentative Essay
Week 17	Unit: Final Argumentative Essay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Final Argumentative Essay
Week 18	Unit: LA 9 Term 2 Final Exam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit LA 9 T2 Final Exam • LA 9 S1 Course Evaluation

ONLINE TECHNOLOGIES

This course takes place online. Since we will not meet face-to-face, you must have the necessary technology and technical know-how to work effectively in this online learning environment. This online course will utilize OnFire as the learning management system. Please contact your instructor if you have trouble logging in or viewing any of the documents and links posted.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

AK Grad expects a full commitment to academic integrity from each student.

Academic integrity means: Your work on each assignment will be completely your own. Your collaboration with another classmate on any assignment will be in accordance with your AK Grad teacher. You will not practice plagiarism of any form. This includes using AI tools to do work that is not authentically your own.

Plagiarism is defined as follows: Copying, using AI technology to create work that is not authentically your own, using ideas or words from another online classmate, or an Internet or print source and presenting them as your own. If an AK Grad teacher confirms that a student has plagiarized work or used AI, the student will receive a 0 and be subject to consequences determined by their school of record.