

Course Syllabus

Description:

In English 4, students explore history's impact on modern texts. By focusing on elements like universal theme, author's purpose and perspective, and historic influence, students are able to see literary works as a whole and understand the deeper experiences that surround these texts. With a strong focus on writing, speaking, and presenting, students engage with their audience and explore elements of English that are highly applicable to both college and the workforce.

Major Topics and Concepts

Segment One

Reading Comprehension/Expository & Narrative Writing and Presentations

Identify and determine the purpose of text structures

Evaluate how text features make a text more effective

Evaluate how an author develops the central idea

Evaluate how an author could support a central idea more effectively

Paraphrase and summarize a text

Determine the significance of denotation and connotation

Identify the mood and tone of a text

Use context clues to determine the meaning of an unknown word

Explain how an author establishes and achieves their purpose when writing a text

Identify and evaluate figurative language in writing

Create a multimedia presentation

Conduct research and determine source validity

Identify the elements of literature and the four layers technique

Identify and analyze the components of an author's style in a text

Write an in-depth analysis of an author's style

Identify literary themes and how they reoccur in classic and contemporary texts

Describe how multiple themes develop through a literary text

Evaluate the development of character perspective, including conflicting perspectives

Evaluate how character perspective develops

Evaluate techniques for character development

Identify narrative techniques used in a text

Compare how the same theme is presented in literature from two different time periods

Write a purposefully crafted narrative

Compare narrative texts for literary elements and style

Organize ideas into a critique

Create a full presentation including audio components and a polished slide deck

Segment One Honors

Analyze the impact that perspective has on the audience's perception of good and evil

Craft a narrative outline from a secondary character's perspective

Evaluate a text for its use of figurative language

Identify the central idea of a text

Evaluate presentations for effectiveness

Revise and edit a presentation

Explain how historic influences impact authors and their works

Assess a narrative for historical influences

Segment Two

Poetry Analysis/Oration and Persuasion and Argumentative Writing

Analyze poetry

Analyze a poem for historical context

Explain the historical influences that impacted poets in various literary periods

Compare and contrast several poets from various literary periods

Analyze and compare poems from contemporaneous authors

Identify the components of an argument

Explain the conditions surrounding an argument

Recognize logical pitfalls in an argument

Distinguish the differences in the four types of rhetoric and identify them within texts

Evaluate an argument

Compare the strength of arguments

Identify a topic for research

Determine source reliability

Conduct research on a topic

Craft a claim and counterclaim

Outline an argumentative essay

Write an argument that incorporates evidence

Proofread and edit work

Create a Works Cited page

Improve arguments after considering feedback

Create a slide deck to present an argument

Apply etymology to determine the meaning of words

Examine how persuasion has impacted history

Interpret the impact rhetorical devices have on an author's purpose in speeches

Compose a speech using rhetorical appeals and devices as well as research

Analyze what makes a great speech great

Explain the impact a specific speech had on a moment in history

Apply presentation skills to a persuasive speech

Record yourself giving an original speech

Segment Two Honors

Create a poem that's influenced by modern events

Consider counterarguments and craft a response

Write a persuasive letter

Course Assessment and Participation Requirements:

To achieve success, students are expected to submit work in each course weekly. Students can learn at their own pace; however, "any pace" still means that students must make progress in the course every week. To measure learning, students complete self-checks, practice lessons, multiple-choice questions, projects, Discussion-Based Assessments, and discussions. Students are expected to maintain regular contact with teachers; the minimum requirement is monthly. When teachers, students, and parents work together, students are successful.