



ELA 1 vs. ELA 1 Honors

Welcome to Shawnee Mission South! You now begin your personal and academic journey toward high school graduation and college/career readiness. We encourage you to maximize your experience by engaging actively and authentically in South’s many academics, arts, athletics, and activities.

One of your first big high school decisions is whether to take on-level or honors courses. Use these questions as guides when considering whether to enroll in the ELA Honors/Advanced Placement pathway--

- \* Do I enjoy participating in English class?
\* Do I invest time and focus in reading?
\* Do I manage time and plan projects well?
\* Am I eager to learn new vocab and skills?
\* Am I comfortable with public speaking?
\* Do I want to enroll in AP English or in the AP Capstone program during my junior and senior years?
\* Am I willing to devote 30-45 minutes per night?
\* Do I enjoy writing, including analysis and argumentative essays?
\* Did I get a strong A in regular English or an A or B in Advanced English?
\* Have I factored in athletics and activities?
\* Have I factored in other honors classes/scheduling?

ENGLISH 9 / ELA 1

Summer Reading: No
Writing: Ongoing informal writings
One formal writing per quarter
Presenting: One individual and/or group presentation per semester
Homework: Several nights per week, including assigned reading, skill work, and test prep
Key Readings: Anthem, Of Mice and Men, To Kill a Mockingbird, Animal Farm, The Odyssey, and Romeo and Juliet
Finals: 15% of semester grade

ENGLISH 9 HONORS / ELA 1 HONORS

Summer Reading: No
Writing: Ongoing informal writings
More than one formal writing per quarter
Timed, in-class essays for AP practice
Presentations: More than one individual and/or group presentation per semester
Homework: Most nights per week, including assigned reading, skill work, test prep, and long-term projects
Key Readings: Of Mice and Men, To Kill a Mockingbird, Animal Farm, The Odyssey, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and Romeo and Juliet
Quarterly independent readings
Finals: 20% of semester grade

RESOURCES

- KSDE ELA Parent Guide
SMSD Strategic Plan
SMSD Program of Studies
SMSD Curriculum Map Snapshots
AP Language and Composition (JR)
AP Literature and Composition (SR)
AP Capstone Program (JR & SR)

ELECTIVES

- Video Production 1 and 2 / KSMS
Journalism / Newspaper / Yearbook
Writers Workshop / Lit Mag / Poetry
Debate / Competitive Speech&Drama
Speech / Mock Trial

CONTACT

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