



Language Arts: Grade 10

Ms. Brittany Armstrong

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Another school year has arrived and I am ready, and excited, to be your Language Arts teacher. The curriculum that I have planned for this year is demanding as my hope is to prepare you for college and what lies beyond high school. I have high expectations for each of my students and have planned my curriculum around district and state requirements, while considering the unique school culture of SLCSE that I love being a part of. In my class you can plan on working hard, being prepared, being responsible, being creative and having fun!

About the Course

This course is designed to help prepare you to become more competent in reading the kinds of texts you will be assigned in different disciplines throughout the rest of your high school classes and beyond. You will work hard to master the reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills necessary for college and career success. We will be reading from a variety of sources and you will continually be drafting, revising, and editing your writing. I will be working closely with the Utah Language Arts Core Curriculum to meet state standards. The Common Core requires continual, intensive practice and study of informational and literary reading and writing. A strong emphasis will be placed on the practice of citing strong textual evidence to support interesting analysis. Another large focus will be for you to practice writing informative texts that examine and convey complex ideas, concepts and information in a clear manner. If you would like, please familiarize yourself with the Utah Language Arts Core Curriculum found at the Utah State Office of Education website: <http://www.schools.utah.gov/core/>

Required Reading

Throughout the year we will be using many resources, but we do not have a single "textbook". The texts, listed below, will be the anchor pieces that we will be reading this year, however all texts will be supplemented with additional sources including: essays, videos, short stories, poems, articles etc.

The Catcher in the Rye by: J.D. Salinger

Twelfth Night by: William Shakespeare

Frankenstein by: Mary Shelley

The Devil's Highway by: Luis Alberto Urrea

SLCSE's Language Arts Department may be small, but we continue to work hard every summer to order more books for students to enjoy. More have arrived, and will continue to arrive, so in addition to the above mentioned texts we will be continually working in small-group literature circles where you will have lots of options to read some great books of literary merit.

Other units include:

- Poetry Out Loud
- Argumentative essay writing

Unit 1: *The Catcher in the Rye*

Essential Questions:

- Is it inevitable that we conform to the society and expectations in which we live?
- How is *The Catcher in the Rye* still relevant to teenagers today?

Writing focus: Stream of consciousness writing style focusing on personal narratives.

This unit will be followed by literature circle groups within the coming-of-age genre, which *The Catcher in the Rye* is a part of. Additionally, we will begin our Shakespeare unit, reading the play *Twelfth Night* and focusing on the theme of identity.

Materials

You are expected to bring to class:

- pencil or pen
- LA notebook (I will provide this)
- our current reading (book and/or supplemental text)
- 3-ring binder with 1 section specifically devoted to this class
- Your SLCSE planner

Grading Policies

45% Effort

Classwork, Homework, Journal Writing

45% Product

Essays, Projects, Quizzes, Tests

10% Life Skills

Communication, Professionalism,
Problem Solving, Teamwork,
Practice Growth Mindset

- If you need an extension on an assignment, you need to speak with me at least 1 day before the assignment is due. Late work will be accepted but will be docked 50%. For example, if a homework assignment is worth 10 points and you turn it in late, the highest amount of points you may receive is 5.
- If you are absent, you have one week to make up the missed work, unless other arrangements have been made.
- Essays and projects will account for the majority of your achievement grade in this class. They will take place over time and will therefore have deadlines along the way. It is my expectation that these deadlines are met on the date they are due.
- Quizzes cannot be retaken. Their purpose is to provide a snapshot of your learning at a given time.
- If you need help, schedule a time to come work with me or go to the Homework Hall after school.
- Grades at the end of each term (quarter) are FINAL.
- Plagiarism is considered an act of academic dishonesty and more seriously, property theft. If an assignment is plagiarized it will receive 0% and disciplinary action will be taken.
- Reminder: In order to graduate students are required to pass every quarter of high school Language Arts.

Honors

All students may choose to take the class for honors credit. In addition to all of the regular assignments, honors students will complete some assignments and a writing assignment/project outside of class. You may opt-in to honors the first two weeks of the school year. After that, you are assumed to be in honors unless you speak with me to remove yourself from the class. Failure to complete honors projects will negatively impact your grade.

Class Behavior Expectations

1. Be on time—in your seat when the bell rings
2. Be prepared—have your materials with you
3. No cell phones/electronic devices used during class time unless specified to do so
4. Be respectful—of others’ identities, ideas, belongings, and personal space
5. Leave no trace. Pick up your stuff, push in your chairs and put things where they belong.

One final word: We will be reading a variety of texts this year that will bring up controversial topics, ideas, and events, which we will be discussing during class time. We will also be reading texts that require a high level of maturity because of their serious nature. Being respectful of others’ ideas, beliefs, thoughts, observations, and opinions is imperative and will be expected at all times. My classroom is a safe space for all people to ask questions, share ideas, and to be themselves.

Dear families,

If you have any questions or concerns please reach me via email at: brittany.armstrong@slcschools.org.

I look forward to working with both you and your student this year!

Thank you,

Brittany Armstrong

I have read the above disclosure.

Print student name

Parent signature and date

Cell phone

Student signature Date

Parent email