

Creative Writing

WITH MRS. LYONS



YEAR AT A GLANCE

MY ONE RULE:

- ATMJ: Add To My Joy
- Teaching is a career change for me, and I love to teach, so ATMJ.

THINGS THAT DO NOT ADD TO MY JOY:

- being late to class - unexcused tardy
- using a cell phone when I have not authorized its use (You will lose all your participation points for the week.)
- making a lowercase l (i) for the pronoun I
- talking over me or someone else who is speaking to the class (Raise your hand, and wait to be acknowledged.)
- putting head down - no sleeping in my class
- wearing a hat that covers the ears - baseball caps okay
- wearing ear phones - unless authorized
- not bringing materials to class (book, notebook paper, writing utensil - not a Sharpie or highlighter)
- leaving any kind of mess on or around your desk
- failure to follow my instructions the first time I ask
- THE BIGGEST: PLAGIARISM! If you feel the need to plagiarize, come see me, and I will help you do honest work. If you found it on the internet, so can I!

DAILY:

- *A college prep elective*
- *Some group work - Lots of fun*
- *Chromebook - I will let you know which days you need to bring a charged Chromebook.*
- *We create and sell a magazine at the end of the year called YouthInk*

CONTACT INFO:

Email is the best way to reach me, and I do my best to respond in a timely manner. My email address includes my middle initial. Please note that I rarely check email during the weekend.

Email: lyonsal@mdusd.org

If you have a question about a grade, please consult Aeries. I update my grades each week. If you are absent, please check both Aeries and Google Classroom. If you need to make up a test, you may see me during an RTI on Wednesday or Thursday.

PLAGIARISM: If you plagiarize, you will earn a 0 on the assignment with **NO** chance of redoing the assignment..

Second violation means failing the quarter; the third violation means failing the semester, so **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!**

THINGS THAT ARE ALWAYS ALLOWED:

Drinking, eating, and chewing gum: I drink, eat, and chew gum in class, so you may do the same. If the flavor runs out, get up and throw the gum in the trash (not the floor or under the desk)

"IF THERE IS A BOOK YOU WANT TO READ THAT HASN'T BEEN WRITTEN, THEN YOU MUST WRITE IT." - TONI MORRISON

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Grading

Grading scales: A = 90-100 B = 89 - 80 C = 70-79
D = 69-60 F = 50-59

There are grading categories to make the gradebook organized, but I do not weight the categories. I do grading equity, so missing assignments will show as missing but count as 50% toward your grade.

I round up on a person to person basis which often includes whether you're missing assignments and your class participation points earned.

Grades are updated each week in Aeries. I also post the grades in my classroom on the wall. No one fails my class who wants to pass.

**"TEARS ARE WORDS
THAT NEED TO BE
WRITTEN"
- PAULO COELHO**

GRADING

Students and families are encouraged to focus holistically on the descriptions of each category below.

(5) MASTERY - Your work reflects mastery of the skills or standards. You demonstrate sophisticated, compelling, and insightful understanding of the content. (90-100%)

(4) PROFICIENT - Your work reflects proficiency of the skills or standards. You demonstrate grade-appropriate understanding of the content. (80-89%)

(3) COMPETENT - Your work reflects a limited grasp of the skills or standards. You demonstrate competence, but your answers are general or literal. Please consider virtually coming in for extra help or review. (70-79%)

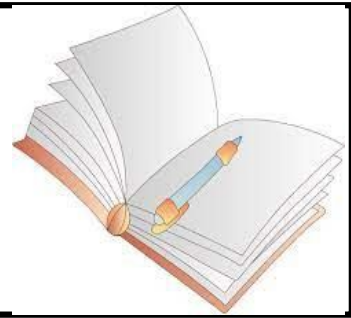
(2) DEVELOPING - Your work reflects a fair understanding of the skills or standards but is still developing. You demonstrate limited understanding of the content; your answers are somewhat correct. Please virtually come in for extra help or review. (60-69%)

(1) NEEDS IMPROVEMENT - Your work reflects little or no understanding of the skills or standards. You demonstrate little or no understanding of the content. Please virtually come in for extra help or review. (51-59%)

(0) NO EVIDENCE - You have not attempted to show that you know the content or that you have mastered the skills or standards. Please virtually connect with me if you are running into obstacles. (50%)

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Participation:

- evaluated weekly - includes contributing to discussions and activities, asking or answering questions, being a productive group member, listening, and showing respect - includes disruption of class or being chronically unprepared or unwilling to participate.

Late Work:

- I realize that everyone is busy and some students have responsibilities outside of school, so I always accept late work (until the day of the final exam at the end of the semester).

- Some missing work will need to be made up during an RTI.

Keep the Lines of Communication Open:

- students unable to come to class should email me and check Aeries/Google Classroom for missed work.

- If you ever have a question about your grade, need extra help, or run into other obstacles throughout the year, keep the communication lines open!

Writing Help:

- Students who need more support for their writing, should see me after school or during an RTI. I am happy to help.

Extra Credit:

- lots of opportunities throughout the year

- additional extra credit assignments offered only for those missing NO assignments

"TO SURVIVE, YOU MUST TELL STORIES"

- **UMBERTO ECO**

I have read and understand the grading policy and syllabus for English II.

Please print your student's name below:

Parent/Guardian Signature (Please type):

Date:

Parent/Guardian's Email Address:

Student Signature:

Date: