

# LHHS English 11/12

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Welcome! Writing is a powerful and important tool necessary for success in the world. Reading - understanding and interpreting someone else's ideas - is equally important to your future as an informed citizen.

## *Objectives:*

**This class will help you become a better writer.** You'll learn to craft writing that expresses your ideas and feelings in powerful ways. We can improve your writing through work on the **structure** of good writing--the words you choose, types of sentence, and well composed paragraphs.

**Good writers are also good readers.** You will look at many texts - novels, short stories, poems, articles, and even films - to discover the secrets of good writers. That means "close reading" and developing your ideas about themes, symbolism, metaphors, characterization, imagery, dialogue, etc.

## *Texts*

Our texts may include, but are not limited to *Into the Wild* (John Krakauer), *Frankenstein* (Mary Shelley), and *The Things They Carried* (Tim O'Brien).

We will also study poems, essays, short stories, informational texts, and films.

## *Responsibilities:*

- Show respect by keeping headphones and electronic devices out of sight.
- Show respect by allowing everyone to have a voice, and listening to understand when others show the courage to speak.
- Show respect by treating books, furniture, and other classroom materials better than if you owned them yourself.
- Show responsibility by being in class, on time, each day.
- <sup>1</sup>Show responsibility by turning in your assignments when they are due, and never, ever taking credit for work that you did not do yourself.
- Show responsibility by getting enough sleep so you can be attentive in class.
- Show regard for safety by keeping backpacks out of walkways.
- Show regard for safety by letting me or another staff member know of any potential for harm to yourself or someone else.
- Show regard for safety through kindness to others, even when you disagree or disapprove of their point of view.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Nate Christiansen

## *Routines*

10/10 Rule: please don't ask to leave in the first and/or last 10 minutes of class because you may miss key instructions.

No cell phones or headphones. Keep them off your desk.

If you are tardy, sign in on the sheet at the front of the room.

If you're absent, ask to find out what you missed, and get the materials.

Bathroom breaks require my permission and my hall pass.

## *Supplies*

- Composition book or other notebook paper for writing
- Pencil or pen

## *Assignments*

\*Journal responses, short essays, projects, worksheets, study questions, group and whole class discussions, and summative assessments

\*I will allow ample time during classes for completing assignments as often as possible.

\*You can always revise any assignment or make corrections to earn a better grade, with the exception of summative assessments.

## *Late Work*

*No work will receive credit once a unit or session ends. Deadlines will be clearly posted.*

## *Grades/Credits*

Grades are based on a percentage of total points earned. Sixty percent for the session is the minimum required to earn any credit with a D. Each session which you pass is worth .125 credit toward graduation (maximum of .5 for a semester). If you don't earn credit for a session, you can still make it up and earn up to the full credit for the time you were enrolled, up to a cut-off at end of semester.

*Homework* will be rare, but if you fall behind due to attendance, you will need to catch up at home.

*Your first assignment is to sign your name below mine, have a parent or other adult sign, and turn it in for 5 points*

Teacher's signature-

Student's signature-

Parent or Adult signature -