



Welcome to Honors English 9!

I'm so excited to be one of the first to welcome you to your freshman year of high school! I know starting high school can feel like a big leap, and summer assignments sometimes add a little extra stress. That's why this year's honors project is designed to be a bit different—it's meant to keep your thinking sharp while still giving you time to enjoy your summer.

In Honors English, we'll explore literature in ways that challenge your thinking, help you make real-world connections, and build your skills in analysis, discussion, and writing. We follow Arizona's state curriculum with a focus on reading deeply, thinking critically, and engaging with complex ideas.

To get started, please join our summer Google Classroom as soon as you can using this code:

gbpuu55o. Be sure to sign in with your school Google account. If you're new to JO Combs Unified School District, don't worry—you'll be able to join once school starts and your school email is active.

Just a heads-up: The summer project is a requirement for Honors English 9, as listed in the course catalog. You can find a digital version of the assignment on the school website.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at pmaroney-scott@jocombs.org. I'll be checking my email periodically over the summer and will get back to you as soon as I can.

I truly look forward to working with you this year!

Warmly,

Mrs. Maroney-Scott

Summer Experience Project

You're about to start a year of reading and writing about people who lived through chaos, oppression, disasters, and impossible choices. Start by learning about **yourself, your community, and what it means to endure.**

Your Mission:

This summer, you'll complete a **three-part "Survival Quest"** that asks you to do what every great story demands: **face a challenge, connect with others, and reflect on who you are becoming.**

You will **NOT** write a standard essay. **You WILL:**

- Take risks (social, emotional, creative—not dangerous!)
 - Engage with your environment
 - Tell your own story
-

Part 1: The Challenge

Commit to a personal challenge for **7 consecutive days** from the options below, or one that you invent.

Examples:

- Wake up before 6:00 a.m. and journal every morning for 20 minutes
- Learn a **new** skill (juggling, basic coding, cooking, origami, etc.)
- Go for a daily walk **without** your phone and document what you observe
- Disconnect from social media and write a short "what I missed / what I didn't" log
- Complete a fitness or mindfulness challenge
- Help someone different every day

Graded Pieces:

☐ Document your progress through **3 photos**, drawings, or screenshots.

AND

☐ At the end of the week, write a short "**Field Note**" (1 page max) about what challenged you most and what you learned about yourself.

Part 2: The Human Connection

Meet someone who has lived through something difficult. Talk to them. Listen. Learn.

Options:

- Interview a grandparent, neighbor, veteran, teacher, or someone else who has lived through something difficult

- Visit a retirement home or veterans organization

Create something from the conversation:

- ☐ A quote collage with your commentary OR
 - ☐ A 1-minute audio/podcast recording OR
 - ☐ A photo + caption gallery
-

Part 3: The Creative Artifact

Turn your summer into a survival-themed art piece, memoir moment, or public expression.

Options:

- ☐ **Write a poem about survival** and provide a statement explaining how it connects to the survival theme
 - ☐ **A photo essay with captions: "What Survival Looks Like"** and provide a statement for each explaining how it connects to the survival theme
 - ☐ **A one-page comic about survival** and provide a statement explaining how it connects to the survival theme
 - ☐ **A "Survival Kit"**—choose 5 objects (real or symbolic) that represent what gets you through life. Write a brief explanation for each, take a photo of those 5 objects set up in a creative manner.
-

What You'll Turn In (Due Sunday, July 20th by 11:59 pm)

- ☐ Your 3 progress photos, drawings, or screenshots from the 7-Day Challenge
- ☐ Your Field Notes from the 7-Day Challenge
- ☐ Your Human Connection piece
- ☐ Your Creative Artifact

***Plagiarism and/or use of Chat GPT/AI platforms will result in a 0.**