

English IV Course Syllabus

Course Name: English 4

Description: In English 4, students explore history's impact on modern texts. By focusing on elements like universal theme, author's purpose and perspective, and historic influence, students are able to see literary works as a whole and understand the deeper experiences that surround these texts. With a strong focus on writing, speaking, and presenting, students engage with their audience and explore elements of English that are highly applicable to both college and the workforce.

Estimated Completion Time: 2 segments / 32–36 weeks.

Major Topics and Concepts:

Segment One

Reading Comprehension/Expository & Narrative Writing and Presentations

- Identify and determine the purpose of text structures.
- Evaluate how text features make a text more effective.
- Evaluate how an author develops the central idea.
- Evaluate how an author could support a central idea more effectively.
- Paraphrase and summarize a text.
- Determine the significance of denotation and connotation.
- Identify the mood and tone of a text.
- Use context clues to determine the meaning of an unknown word.
- Explain how an author establishes and achieves their purpose when writing a text.
- Identify and evaluate figurative language in writing.
- Create a multimedia presentation.
- Conduct research and determine source validity.
- Identify the elements of literature and the four layers technique.
- Identify and analyze the components of an author's style in a text.
- Write an in-depth analysis of an author's style.
- Identify literary themes and how they reoccur in classic and contemporary texts.
- Describe how multiple themes develop through a literary text.
- Evaluate the development of character perspective, including conflicting perspectives.
- Evaluate how character perspective develops.
- Evaluate techniques for character development.
- Identify narrative techniques used in a text.
- Compare how the same theme is presented in literature from two different time periods.
- Write a purposefully crafted narrative.
- Compare narrative texts for literary elements and style.
- Organize ideas into a critique.
- Create a full presentation including audio components and a polished slide deck.

Segment One Honors:

- Analyze the impact that perspective has on the audience's perception of good and evil.
- Craft a narrative outline from a secondary character's perspective.
- Evaluate a text for its use of figurative language.
- Identify the central idea of a text.
- Evaluate presentations for effectiveness.
- Revise and edit a presentation.
- Explain how historic influences impact authors and their works.
- Assess a narrative for historical influences.

Segment Two

Poetry Analysis/Oration and Persuasion and Argumentative Writing

- Analyze poetry.
- Analyze a poem for historical context.
- Explain the historical influences that impacted poets in various literary periods.
- Compare and contrast several poets from various literary periods.
- Analyze and compare poems from contemporaneous authors.
- Identify the components of an argument.
- Explain the conditions surrounding an argument.
- Recognize logical pitfalls in an argument.
- Distinguish the differences in the four types of rhetoric and identify them within texts.
- Evaluate an argument.
- Compare the strength of arguments.
- Identify a topic for research.
- Determine source reliability.
- Conduct research on a topic.
- Craft a claim and counterclaim.
- Outline an argumentative essay.
- Write an argument that incorporates evidence.
- Proofread and edit work.
- Create a Works Cited page.
- Improve arguments after considering feedback.
- Create a slide deck to present an argument.
- Apply etymology to determine the meaning of words.
- Examine how persuasion has impacted history.
- Interpret the impact rhetorical devices have on an author's purpose in speeches.
- Compose a speech using rhetorical appeals and devices as well as research.
- Analyze what makes a great speech great.
- Explain the impact a specific speech had on a moment in history.

- Apply presentation skills to a persuasive speech.
- Record yourself giving an original speech.

Segment Two Honors:

- Create a poem that's influenced by modern events.
- Consider counterarguments and craft a response.
- Write a persuasive letter.

Course Assessment and Participation Requirements: To achieve success, students are expected to submit work in each course weekly. Students can learn at their own pace; however, "any pace" still means that students must make progress in the course every week. To measure learning, students complete self-checks, practice lessons, multiple-choice questions, discussion-based assessments, discussions, and projects. Students are expected to maintain regular contact with teachers; the minimum requirement is monthly. When teachers, students, and parents work together, students are successful.