



SILSA Course Syllabus

Course Name: English I Honors

Teacher: Ms. Turkel (*turk-kell*)

Room: 110

Course Overview

English I Honors is more than just reading books and writing essays. It's about learning how to think deeply, ask meaningful questions, and express yourself clearly. These are skills you'll use in every class, on tests, in college, and in life. This class will challenge you, and that is a good thing! You will read stories that make you think, write pieces that help you find your voice, and learn how to support your ideas with evidence. As you go, you will grow as a writer, a reader, and a thinker.

DAILY EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS

- ✓ Check the agenda: Read and review the daily class agenda as soon as you enter our space.
- ✓ Stay organized: Update your planner with upcoming due dates and events.
- ✓ Be prepared: Writing tasks require a pencil, and many activities will also require a charged laptop.
- ✓ Bring your best attitude: A positive and willing mindset goes a long way!
- ✓ Best effort penmanship: Handwritten work should be neat, legible, and easy to read.
- ✓ No phones during class: Phones must be stowed in the lockbox before class begins.

Essential Questions to Spark Student Inquiry

How does literature help us interact with the world? What qualities define a writer's distinctive voice? What are the elements of effective communication?

Assessment

Formative (classwork, homework, progress checks)

Bell-Ringers/Exit Tickets
Grammar Practice
Peer Review
Jigsaw
Book Circle Role Sheets

Summative (essays & project-based work)

Research Paper
Literary Analysis Essay - Short Story Unit & Book Circle Selection
Project-Based Assessments (example: Short Story One-Pager)
The Tempest Mosaic and Claim-Evidence-Reasoning Paragraph

Grading

50% Summative Assessment (Essays & Project-Based Work)
30% Formative Assessment (Classwork, homework, progress checks)
20% Final Exam

Make-Up Work: Students are responsible for checking in about any work missed due to an absence. If absent, check the class Canvas page and ask a classmate for notes or updates. Please touch base with your teacher as soon as you return to school. Major assignments, tests, or projects that were already assigned before the absence are still due on the original due date unless you've communicated with the teacher. If you're absent on the day of a test, quiz, or in-class assignment, you are expected to make it up within one week. It is *your* responsibility to schedule the time to make up missed assessments.

Attendance

When a student must miss school, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian must be presented to Ms. Washington in the SILSA front office on the day the student returns after an absence. Absences due to extended illnesses may also require a statement from a health care practitioner.

Per [Board of Education Procedure 3420-P](#): Students who exceed the number of absences to earn course credit must attend attendance recovery within two weeks of their last absence.

Per [Board of Education Procedure 4400-P](#): To receive credit for a course, a student must not have more than five (5) unlawful class absences.

Supplies

- Planner
- 3-ring binder to organize materials for all core classes
- Binder dividers
- College-ruled lined paper
- Preferred pencils & black/blue pens (bonus points for a pencil case you love!)

Academic Integrity and AI Use

In this class, all submitted work must reflect your own thinking, writing, and effort. As AI tools become more accessible, it's important to understand their role in academic work. AI Tools may be used for spelling and grammar checks, but not for writing essays, analysis, or responses. Using AI to generate written assignments or bypassing the writing process is not allowed and will be treated as academic dishonesty. If you are unsure whether a tool is appropriate for an assignment, ask before using it. Misuse may result in a zero, a conversation about academic honesty, and/or an office referral.