

William A. Shine—Great Neck South High School

Course Expectation Sheet

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

COURSE: Reading & Research

(Revised 10/25)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students join a supportive community of researchers dedicated to exploring meaningful questions and communicating ideas effectively. Through guided practice in reading, writing, and collaborating, students will learn to think critically, synthesize information, and present their findings with clarity and confidence. Emphasis is placed on curiosity, open-mindedness, and active participation in a classroom environment that values feedback and reflection.

GRADES

Grades will be calculated based on assessments, assignments and participation. These will include, but are not limited to: quizzes, tests, projects, presentations, homework, classwork, essays, and research. Please familiarize yourself with the following department-wide assessment policies:

SKILLS

Research

- Formulate clear, researchable questions
- Navigate databases to find scholarly sources
- Assess the reliability and validity of materials
- Analyze and synthesize information from multiple sources
- Paraphrase and cite evidence properly using MLA format
- Craft strong thesis statements and coherent arguments

Presentation

- Design clear, effective presentations with visual aids
- Respond thoughtfully to peer and teacher questions

Collaboration and Time Management

- Participate in group research and discussions
- Provide and receive constructive peer feedback
- Create and follow individual timelines for long-term and short-term projects

EXTRA HELP

Students are encouraged to attend extra help sessions on the day before English testing day.

WRITING CONFERENCES

Writing conferences provide students with the opportunity to discuss and improve their writing. Each student is expected to schedule appointments at a time that is mutually convenient for both student and teacher. Students may not absent themselves from another class in order to attend a writing conference.

ATTENDANCE

According to the school's attendance policy, excessive absences will result in parental notification, a negative impact on the course grade, and in some cases will result in a loss of course credit.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism involves passing off someone's work (including another student's work, an online source, or AI-generated writing) as one's own. When students submit work that is not their own, they will receive no credit for that work and will have no opportunity to make up that work. Students who willingly share their work with others are also subject to penalty.