

Mr. Malanga
Canyon Crest Academy
English 10 Honors, Room C105
Spring 2017 Syllabus

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DO YOUR HOMEWORK

English 10 Honors is a course which serves as a foundation for the rest of your high school experience and, hopefully, for your college career. We will begin with solidifying the mechanics of grammar and punctuation – I will quiz you often, so keep all your commas, semicolons, and colons fresh in your minds. We will then apply these skills to writing. We will begin with composing a structured MLA-style paragraph which you will be able to use for many of our writing assignments. The mastery of this paragraph will jump us into the multi-layered paragraph paper. The narratives we will read in this course will inspire your writings. Note: I will push you academically all year long. Hopefully, you are willingly on an AP path.

About Our Class

- I. Bring these items to class EVERY DAY:
 - a. an open binder with plenty of paper
 - b. the class text(s), including your SSR
 - c. pens and pencils

- II. What NOT to bring:
 - a. an operating and conspicuous mobile phone - I will confiscate if I feel it is distracting.
 - b. food – because the ants will come.
 - c. gum
 - d. any drink except water
 - e. earphones
 - f. profanity

- III. Remember these classroom policies:
 - a. Be in your seat when the bell rings.
 - b. Class ends with the ringing of the bell or when I let you know that class is over. Do not pack up in anticipation.
 - c. Raise your hand or wait for me or any other student to finish speaking when you wish to contribute.

- d. Do only our English work in class. Believe me - there'll be enough of it.
 - e. Keep the floors absolutely clean. Class will not be dismissed if trash remains. I will check.
 - f. Utilize the restroom pass only in emergencies, and check with me when you need it.
- IV. Homework and Grading:
- a. Late homework will only be accepted with an excused absence.
 - b. You have as many days as you were absent to make up any missing work.
 - c. All written work must be typed or written in black or blue ink. No pencil, unless I okay it first.
 - d. All papers and long-term assignments must be typed in size 12, in Times New Roman, and double-spaced. Please type all formal writings.
 - e. Save all your work.
 - f. A = 90%, B = 80%, C = 70%, D = 60%. Do not get an F.
 - g. This is not a weighted class. That means that you will be graded on how many points you earn; for instance, while a journal write is worth 4 points and an MLA paragraph might be worth 15 points, an essay will come in at maybe 60. The more substantial the writing, the more points to earn.
 - h. Classroom participation, cooperation, and a great attitude may raise your grade, but that is not a guarantee.
 - i. Check my website daily for assignments.

A Note on Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

"To plagiarize" according to *The American Heritage Dictionary* is

1. to steal and use the ideas or writing of another as one's own
2. to appropriate passages or ideas from another and use them as one's own

And according to CCA's website, "honest behavior is an expectation for all students in the San Dieguito Union High School District. The purpose of this policy is to create and maintain an ethical academic atmosphere." Plagiarism and cheating, therefore, will not be tolerated. In addition, an original writer who intentionally shares his work for another to copy is also engaging in plagiarism. Violation of the Academic honesty policy may result in the following:

- a. loss of credit for the assignment or test with no makeup permitted
- b. parent/guardian will be contacted
- c. referral to the assistant principal

- d. suspension from school
- e. removal from any leadership position

v. Class structure:

a. Primary Texts:

- *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles
- *The Secret Sharer* by Joseph Conrad
- *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka
- *Maus* by Art Spiegelman
- *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
- *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

- b. Sustained Silent Reading: By Monday, February 13, you will have chosen a novel from the AP reading list. The AP reading list ("Titles from Free Response Questions") can be found on my website. When you have selected your title, send me an email with the title. No title can be duplicated by any other student in the class. Bring your SSR book on Wednesdays and Thursdays of each week. On Thursday, Apr 6, I will give you an in-class, analytical SSR Exam on any topic, question, or essay format of my choosing. For SSR2, you will share your novel with the class in a 3-5 minute analytical presentation. This will be in early June. I will go over the analysis rubric later on, but be prepared to address one of the following with outside research: a) historical perspective, b) Freudian/psychoanalytical interpretation, c) Marxist theory, d) gender issues.
- c. AP Exams: To prepare you for AP Language and AP Literature, I will occasionally give you trial AP Multiple Choice Exams to complete in class. You will usually work in pairs or in small groups.
- d. Writing: This is a writing class, and I am a writing teacher. I believe in writing above all else. It is what will define your success as a student in high school, in college, and in your jobs/careers. It is how the world will judge your articulate and valuable mind. Take it seriously. Never be late with a writing assignment – your grade will plummet.

In this semester, we will engage in many writing modes. We will master the MLA format and apply it to the literary analysis process paper. We will synthesize texts in order to defend thesis statements. I will have you write timed on-demand essays. Journal writing will be a weekly task.

- e. Grammar and Punctuation: Lots of it! Trust me. By June, you will be an expert in commas, semicolons, colons, comma splices, run-ons, and sentences fragments.
- f. Speaking: On occasion, you will give extemporaneous speeches while standing in front of the class. These will be one to two minutes.
- g. Vocabulary: We will go over 10 new vocabulary words per week - words recommended by the SAT Board when the exam used to cover vocabulary. We will have a quiz every Friday on the week's words, so if you are absent, you must come to me to make up the quiz.

You need to know this: I am a fair grader yet a firm grader of expectations. Whatever level of reading and writing you bring to this Honors class, I will evaluate you on your attempted work, your accomplished work, your growth in class, and your participation and cooperation. I truly want you to succeed in high school but I need your willingness as well. Be sure to complete every assignment. If you fall behind, I will pull you aside to discuss it, we will look at Aeries together, and I will call or email your

Signing below indicates that you have read and that you do understand the classroom policies for English 10 Honors. Tear off once signed and hand in to me.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature and Date: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature and Date: _____