



Jackson Memorial High School
English Department

Course Title: NJGPA ELA 12 (0136)

Room: 113 - Memorial Building

Teacher(s): Mr. Pienkowski - japienkowski@jacksonsd.org

Office Hours: by appointment during the Common Period

Required Materials

- a. Charged Chromebook
- b. A 3-ring binder or a Spiral Notebook and Folder
- c. Writing utensil (pen or pencil)
- d. Positive attitude and an open mind

Cell Phones

- a. Cell phones will be placed in the pocket holder in the front of the classroom at the beginning of class and can be picked up at the end of class
- b. Focus, engagement, and participation are crucial to your success in this course

Grading

The English Department requires that the following grading policy be implemented:

- a. Participation 20% (*includes daily attendance*)
- b. Homework 40% (*includes classwork*)
- c. Assessment 40% (*includes quizzes, tests, projects, & essays*)

NJGPA ELA Assessment

All students enrolled in the NJGPA ELA 12 course will be required to take the NJGPA ELA Assessment in October. In addition to the assessment, students will be required to complete the ELA Portfolio Appeal which includes a variety of reading comprehension and writing tasks.

- a. We will be doing different test preparation assignments and assessments before the test
 - i. ELA Portfolio Appeal tasks will take place during the class period

Participation

Participation is necessary to be successful in this course

- a. Absent students have the option to make up missed work within **two** days of the absence if you have a Doctor's note
 - i. All other absences are **not excused** and your absence and work can be made up during the Common Period.
- b. Being prepared counts for participation as well

Homework

- a. Students will receive credit for completing and contributing to classroom activities
- b. Homework is expected to be completed and turned in on its due date.
- c. Homework may include reading assignments and/or online textbook assignments.

Assessment: Tests, Quizzes, Essays, and Projects

- a. Quizzes will be announced and unannounced; it is best always to be prepared.
- b. Tests will be announced at least **two** days before the day students will be required to take them. If you are absent on test day, you must take the test upon return.
- c. School policy states that you have **five** days to make up missed tests. Please do not wait that long.
- d. Late projects and/or essays **will not** be accepted.

Attendance

- a. You are only allowed **eight** unexcused absences per semester in each class. If you exceed the allotted absences, you may be denied credit regardless of the grade that you may receive.
- b. You are responsible for seeing me to see what assignments were missed during your absence.

Class Dismissal

- a. I ask that you remain seated and on task until we dismiss you for the day.
- b. I decide when the class is over.
- c. If you are standing, you are staying.

Restroom Policy

- a. You may use the restroom before or after a lesson or a lecture, but **PLEASE** do not interrupt the class in the middle of a lesson because you have to go to the bathroom. Please ask to leave the room at an appropriate time. Using your pass is a privilege that will be suspended if misused and/or abused.

Reading/Film Review

We will be covering the following:

- i. *The Body*
 - a. This book is a coming-of-age story about four 12-year-old friends in the fictional town of Castle Rock, Maine in 1960. The boys, search for the body of Ray Brower, a boy who has gone missing, along the railroad tracks. The boys encounter many challenges, and as they search, the boys come to terms with death and the harsh realities of growing up in a small factory town. **There is violence, some sensuality, and powerful themes. We will be watching the film “Stand By Me” after the novel.

Reading/Film Review (continued)

- ii. *Jaws*
 - a. We will read excerpts from this novel about a great white shark that terrorizes a small Long Island resort town and the three men trying to kill it. The story takes place in the fictional town of Amity Island, where police chief Martin Brody, oceanographer Matt Hooper, and shark hunter Quint must confront their fears and battle the shark for survival. **There is violence and powerful themes. We will be watching the film “Jaws.”
- iii. *Film Study*
 - a. “Stranger than Fiction”
 - a. I.R.S. auditor Harold Crick suddenly finds his mundane Chicago life to be the subject of narration only he can hear: narration that begins to affect his entire existence, from his work to his love life to his death.
 - b. If time permits, we will study other films at the end of the semester that cover all of the topics and themes studied throughout the semester.

Writing

- a. Writing is also an essential life skill: my job is to teach you how to become a better writer. Formal essays that count as tests require the following:
 - On-time and complete the day that it is due
 - Typed - Double spaced
 - Times New Roman Font (size 12)
 - Occasionally multiple drafts
 - A proper heading:

Last Name Page #
(in the header)

First Name Last Name

Mr. Pienkowski

English 0136A-01

Date (DD Month YYYY)

Classroom Rules: Please adhere to the following rules:

- a. Be prepared and ready to work when you arrive, and respect yourself and each other
- b. Be in your seat when the bell rings, and follow directions the **first** time
- c. Refrain from using language that will embarrass you, your parents, or me

Name: _____

Period: _____

This, like any other semester, is very important. Your education is the most important; as a result, I expect a lot from my students. The goals I have set for you are attainable with dedication and hard work. Everything that we do in class is relevant to your success. An essential idea to remember is that you have the power over your grades and your future. Please remember that **I do not give grades – you earn them!**

MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS YOUR TEACHER:

- a. To treat you with respect and care as an individual
- b. To provide you with an orderly classroom environment
- c. To provide the necessary discipline
- d. To provide appropriate motivation
- e. To teach the required content

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A STUDENT:

- a. Treat your classmates and me with respect and care as individuals
- b. To attend class regularly
- c. To be cooperative and not disruptive
- d. To study hard and complete the work
- e. To learn and master the required content

I am looking forward to having this class together. We can come together as adults and have a positive experience. Good luck to you this semester in this class and all of your other classes.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

(Parent / Guardian Signature)

(Date)

Mr. Pienkowski

(Teacher Signature)

9-05-2024
(Date)