9th Grade Literature & Composition

Tucker High School

Ms. Peterson

2014-2015

Welcome to 9th Grade English with Ms. Peterson. I am so excited to get to know each of you as we navigate Freshman Language Arts together. As your English teacher, it is my privilege and job to educate you in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Together, we are going to learn a lot, so let’s dive in!

**Expectations:** It is easy to succeed in my class by doing two things: 1) Come to class 2) Be prepared to work. Specifically, this means that you should show up with all of the necessary materials and be ready to go as soon as you sit down. As long as you stay organized, show up on time, and are prepared to interact and discuss with one another you will do well.

**Required Materials:** The required materials for this class are a 3-ring binder, tab dividers, college ruled notebook paper, one set of multi-colored highlighters (green, pink, orange, yellow), pencils (mechanical are okay), and blue or black pens.

**Daily Agenda:** Each day, I will post the assignments and activities we complete on our class blog (see link above). If possible, this will include links to documents, copies of presentations, and any notes. **You will need to get used to checking the online agenda daily especially if you are absent.**  **If you miss a class, it is *your* absolute responsibility to consult the agenda and complete missed assignments. Missing class does not excuse you from that night’s homework unless you are sick.**

**Organizing your Notebook:** Being organized with your assignments and materials is half the battle to succeeding in high school. If you are organized, you will not have to waste time trying to find necessary handouts, notes- nor do you overlook or misinterpret assignments. For my class especially, you must keep your binder organized into the following sections: journal, vocabulary, writing, daily work, and tests/quizzes. When the bell rings, you must have your notebook open and turned to the journal section. The first 10 minutes or so of class will be devoted to journaling. If your notebook is not out at the time of the bell, you are tardy.

**Homework Policy:** There will be a designated place for you to place your assignments at the front of the room. When you enter class each day that something is due, place your work neatly on it. Be sure to check to make sure you include all drafts and rubrics for essays. When the tardy bell rings, I will collect your assignments. If the assignment is not in the pile by the bell, it is considered late.

Make-up work is for excused absences only. It must be completed within two to five days. Missed work will not be assigned or accepted weeks after it was missed. During the last seven days before the final exam, no make-up work will be accepted. Tests, if announced prior to an absence, must be made up the day the student returns to school. It is your responsibility to check the class website for assignments that you missed when you are absent.

**Revisions:** You may turn in as many revisions over the course of the semester as you wish; however, in order to take advantage of the opportunity to revise, you must make at least a 50 on the original assignment. You must also meet the first revision deadline in order to be able to revise an assignment more than once. In regard to essays and tests, your revision(s) grade will replace the original you earned. Revisions on assignments below a 50 are up for discussion between student and teacher as long as it is within reason.

**Lit Lab:** I am available before and after school to assist you. Never hesitate to reach out for help with assignments, essays, or need me to provide further explanation.

 “It is not the load that breaks you down; it is the way you carry it.” – Lena Horne

**Bathroom Policy:** At the beginning of each semester, you will receive TWO emergency bathroom passes. You can do what you want with them. Use them, sell them , trade them with someone else, or keep them. If you keep both of your bathroom passes until December, I will drop you lowest quiz grade.

**Ticket System:** For every graded assignment that you receive a 90 or above on you will receive a ticket. It is your responsibility to keep up with the tickets you earn. At the end of each unit, you will be able to redeem tickets for extra points on assignments, quizzes, tests, or projects.

**Seating:** As of right now, there is no assigned seating chart. I will allow you to sit where you choose until such a time that it interferes with our learning environment. We must achieve a classroom setting conducive to learning and growth. I reserve the right to rearrange the seating when I see that our learning environment is being disrupted.

**Classroom Rules:** Respect yourself, your classmates, and your teacher.

Jot down two behaviors that you feel show you are respecting yourself, you classmates, and your teacher in the blank space below:

Indications of this rule:

* Come prepared for class everyday having completed any reading assignments, writing, or necessary studying.
* Bring all materials to class each day.
* Contribute to class discussions and share your ideas.
* Listen when others share their own ideas, even when they are different from your own.
* Express your opinions politely and ask for further explanation when you do not understand what someone has said.
* Take responsibility for your share of work and complete it as thoroughly as possible when working in groups or pairs.

To sum it up: In this class we work as a team. If you are slacking in assignments, coming to class not prepared, or disrupting others, you are pulling your team down. Make your coach (me) and your teammates proud.