

W E L C O M E T O

LANGUAGE ARTS

10TH GRADE ENGLISH *with Mr. Young*

Welcome to English 10, with Mr. Young. This class will empower you with the reading, writing, and critical-thinking skills you'll need to thrive in life. Students of Mr. Young can expect a stimulating, intense environment where language and ideas are celebrated. Our classroom vibe is nurturing and energetic, but with a disciplined focus on learning. Students are challenged to think deeply and to express themselves with precision and power. Struggling readers and writers who adopt a healthy attitude always do well in our class and Mr. Young promises to help everyone willing to keep trying.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

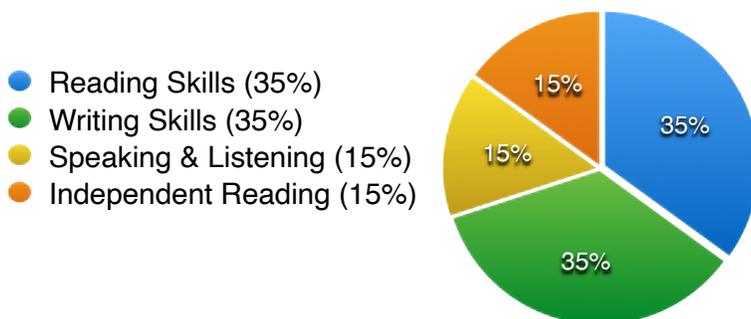
Mr. Young is deeply committed to providing a safe space for all students—intellectually, physically, and emotionally. Happily, literature helps form humane and ethical young people who can empathize with others, adopt multiple perspectives, and more fully connect to the spectrum of human experience. In our classroom, each student's unique voice will be honored as we learn to express ourselves with clarity, power, and authenticity.

The following class affirmations will help guide our thoughts, attitudes, and behavior:

- We treat every person with respect and kindness.
- We control our own thoughts, actions, and attitudes.
- We are fully present and mentally awake.

GRADING CATEGORIES

The following chart shows how grades are constituted:



New Perspectives

As a community of learners, we will encounter new ideas and new perspectives in this course. Stories, articles, and conversations will challenge our ways of understanding the world. As your teacher, I have no interest in changing anyone's perspective or swaying opinions; I am committed, however, to helping us practice respectful dialogue as we engage ideas worthy of our consideration. The stories, poems, articles, and film clips we study have been thoughtfully included to represent a wide variety of characters and situations. Some characters experience difficult situations or use mature language. Please communicate concerns with me if a passage or topic triggers unmanageable anxiety or if you feel an alternative text might be more appropriate for you.

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READING AT HOME

Students who don't love to read will soon catch the fever! We celebrate books in our class and Mr. Young gives lots of freedom for students to choose the books they love. Outside of class, students will read an interesting "Article of the Week" and write about it. In addition, students will read two books each term—at home. Most students find that reading 15-20 minutes every night is more than enough time to complete a book every three or four weeks. Guidelines and completion deadlines for the entire school year are provided to each student at the beginning of the year.



ABOUT YOUR TEACHER



When Lon Young was a freckle-faced teenager, he plunged into the dark woods behind his house with twin ravens perched on his shoulders. Now his favorite co-adventurers are his spirited wife and the 5 squawking redheads they've hatched and fed. His family recently returned from a year-long stay in India, where they served in leprosy colonies, ate with their hands, and discovered joy amidst suffering.

The arts and humanities enrich Lon's personal and professional life; he began his career as a band director before pursuing his passion for literature and creative writing. His essays, short stories, and poems have appeared in several national literary journals and magazines that no one, including his own mother, has ever read.

You can contact Mr. Young at

lony@provo.edu

HOME WORK, LATE WORK, REVISED WORK

Students will rarely have homework beyond the "Two Books a Term" and "Article of the Week" expectation. When homework *is* assigned, there is a compelling reason for it, and students should make every effort to complete assignments on time.

Mr. Young recognizes that sometimes circumstances beyond a student's control make it impossible to finish work on time. Please contact him **BEFORE** the due date to make other arrangements. Visit with Mr. Young if you are feeling overwhelmed and need help prioritizing your unfinished assignments.

Please note that it is the policy of the Provo High English Department that students who show a pattern of missing assignment deadlines or of turning in sub-standard work at the end of the term risk earning a "P" "C-" or "D-" as your term grade. Click [HERE](#) to read the details of our department late policy.

Behavior	Maximum Grade
Many assignments are submitted more than two weeks after due dates	P or C-
Many assignments are turned in at the end of the term	P or D-
Student completes the work after term-end with teacher permission	P or D-
Making no effort in class to do the assigned work Not concentrating during lesson delivery Neglecting to ask for help or clarification when needed Showing no understanding of the work in progress Unresponsive when teachers reach out	F Descriptors taken from PCSD EL Grading Recommendations, 12/07/2020