

W E L C O M E T O

LANGUAGE ARTS

10TH GRADE ENGLISH *with Mr. Young*

Welcome. This course empowers us with the reading, writing, and critical-thinking skills we'll need in life. More than that, our immersion in rich literature helps us become humane and reflective people who can empathize with others, consider multiple perspectives, and more fully connect to the spectrum of human experience. Expect a stimulating, intense environment where language and ideas are celebrated. We will challenge one another to think deeply and to express ourselves with precision, power, and mutual respect.

YOUR CLASSROOM

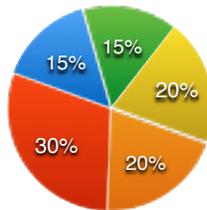
You are welcome here. This class is the perfect place for sharing stories and honoring the human experience, not only from the pages of books but also from the pages of our own lives. Sharing is a vulnerable act. We often remain silent for fear of rejection or disapproval. Let us then create a space where honest differences in perspective can be respected, and even greeted with genuine interest. We can be “real” with each other only when there is a foundation of respect and civility. Let us build that community together and hold one another accountable to ensure a truly inclusive classroom where all are welcome.



YOUR GRADE

Your grade will reflect (1) your growth, (2) your skill mastery, and (3) your completion of classroom and independent learning activities. To achieve this balanced portrait of how you're doing, individual assignments are assigned a category, which are then weighted according to the chart below to form the term grade.

- Reading Development (15%)
- Writing Development (15%)
- Classroom Activities (20%)
- Independent Reading (20%)
- Core Skill Mastery (30%)



Do I accept late work? Occasionally, but only if the student demonstrates a sincere commitment to learning. Dumping a term's worth of missing assignments on my desk the final week before grades does not allow *me* time to offer meaningful feedback nor *students* time to use that feedback to improve. The English Department's policy is that students who “show a pattern of missing assignment deadlines or of turning in sub-standard work at the end of the term” may earn a “P” “C-” or “D-” as their term grade. Click [HERE](#) to read the details of our department's Late Policy.

Engaging 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 hidden agenda** to change anyone's perspective or adopt my views. 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.

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OUR CURRICULUM

Mr. Young's English 10 curriculum closely follows the units of study included in *My Perspectives*, a District and School Board-approved Language Arts text book that provides opportunities to (1) analyze various texts, (2) cite evidence, and (3) demonstrate critical thinking skills.

In addition to the collection of stories, poems, passages, and non-fiction articles in *My Perspectives*, we will read the novel *Fahrenheit 451* as a class, critically respond to the documentary *The Social Dilemma*, view a film adaptation of a Shakespeare play, and frequently engage other short forms of texts, such as music

YOUR TEACHER

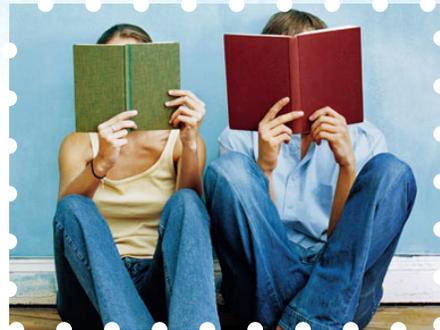


My passion is empowering young people with the reading, writing, and critical thinking skills they'll need to navigate their world effectively. I leverage the power of literature to form humane and ethical young people who empathize with others, adopt multiple perspectives, and more fully connect to the spectrum of human experience. My family spent a year-long stay in India, where we served in leprosy colonies, ate with our hands, and discovered joy amidst suffering.

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

You can contact me at

lony@provo.edu



ACADEMIC HONESTY

I am committed to supporting the values of academic integrity and honesty. Plagiarism and cheating represent serious breaches of trust and may result in a failing grade for assignments and, for repeat offenses, in failing the term. If you feel pressure to cheat, just relax and do your best. When I know what you can and cannot yet do, I can better support you as a learner.

MATERIALS

We provide a textbook, a Chromebook, and classroom copies of any novels or plays we read. Please bring your Chromebook, fully charged, to class each day.

Also, students should bring a pen and a non-spiral notebook (such as a college-ruled composition book) to class each day. This will be used for taking notes and completing some reflection activities.

PHONES

Cell phones are to be kept in backpacks. They must not be out. Not in laps. Not in hoody pockets. Not on desks. In emergencies, parents can reach students by calling the PHS office (801)-373 6550 and requesting the office call my room extension #3402. I also allow students to step into the hall to text or call home, upon request. This respects our learning environment.

PHS electronic policy allows teachers to take phones from students for a period, or even for the school day. I hope this will not be necessary, as we respect our time and enjoy our freedom from the tyranny of phone addiction.