

English I Course Syllabus: Mrs. Taylor

Contact Information

- **Teacher:** Mrs. Christina Taylor
- **Room Number:** 252
- **Phone Number:** (512) 428-3969 (M-F 8:15 AM - 4:15 PM)
- **Email Address:** christina_taylor@roundrockisd.org
- **Website:** http://teacherweb.com
- **Tutorials:** Mrs. Taylor is available most mornings before school from 8:15 - 9:00 AM as well as by appointment. Making an appointment is the **MOST EFFECTIVE** method.

Course Description (Objectives)

Students will:

- Review basic grammar rules and apply them.
- Critically read selected texts and analyze them using various literary devices.
- Review the elements of narration—plot, character, theme, setting, and point of view—and analyze major works of literature by applying these elements to them.
- Explore the writing process and the structure of a multi-paragraph composition.
- Focus their writing and concentrate on composing effective paragraphs. *A structurally-sound, fully-elaborated paragraph is the microcosm of a well-written composition.*
- Explore analytical writing through effective compositions.
- Explore the research process.
- Practice soft skills—awareness of content, audience, and appearance; effective speaking skills; and nonverbal cues.

Work Load

Students will:

- Have an average of thirty (30) minutes of homework every night. The teacher will attempt to establish an even pace; however, this work may occur in waves.
- Complete at least one formal composition each six-week grading period.
- Critically read a text each six-week grading period.

Grading Policy

- See course website for the “Westwood High School: English Department Grading Policy.”
- Each six-week grading period, grades will be weighted as follows:

- Test Grades: 30%
- Major Grades: 20%
- Daily Grades: 30%
- Homework Grades: 20%

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Expectations

As a member of this class, each student should contribute to a productive learning environment by:

1. Be prepared.

- Submit assignments at the ***BEGINNING*** of class.
- Start the warm-up activity as soon as possible upon entering the room.
- Bring all necessary materials to class daily.

2. Be respectful.

- Listen carefully when a teacher ***OR*** student is speaking.
- Raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged before speaking.
- Use appropriate language.
- Behave appropriately for a substitute teacher.
- Accept responsibility for your actions:
 - Apologize for inappropriate comments and behavior.
 - Pick up and dispose of trash in your area.
 - Return borrowed materials to their proper place.
 - Respect other people's property.

3. Be positive and open-minded.**4. Be honest.****5. Be involved.****Recipe for Success**

Students should heed the following suggestions to increase their success in this class:

- Carefully **read the directions** of all assigned work. If they are unclear or require additional information, then ask for help.
- **Seek extra help** when needed.
- Maintain a system that **organizes** handouts, class work, and assignments.
- **Submit assignments *ON TIME***—at the beginning of class on the day that it is due.
- Develop a personal system for previewing, **studying**, and reviewing course work.
- **Avoid procrastinating.**

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Course Overview

Overview subject to change based on student/course need.

Each six weeks will include:

- (1) a **formal composition** in one of the following writing modes: narrative, persuasive, descriptive, expository, or literary analysis.
- (2) **grammar** conventions that cover: complete sentences vs. sentence fragments, punctuation, capitalization (related to sentence structure, proper nouns, titles, etc.), verb tense consistency, and sentence variety (simple compound, and complex sentences; vivid language; precise verbs; and diction)

Textbooks:

- *The Language of Literature* (McDougal Littell)
- *Language Network* (McDougal Littell)

Supplemental Materials:

- Texts from the Round Rock ISD approved reading list

First 6 Weeks Focus:

- Orientation
- Reading: The Short Story
 - “The Most Dangerous Game” **[textbook]**
 - Companion Piece **[textbook]**
- Writing:
 - Building basic paragraph structure
 - Writing a Short Answer Response to Literature (A.C.E.)

Fourth 6 Weeks Focus:

- **Fall Semester Exam**
- Reading: Nonfiction
 - “I Have a Dream” **[textbook]**
 - “Glory and Hope” **[textbook]**
- Writing: Expository Writing—The Research Process

Second 6 Weeks Focus:

- Reading: The Novel
 - *Ender's Game* by O. S. Card **[buy]**
- Writing: Personal Narrative

Fifth 6 Weeks Focus

- Reading: The Epic
 - *Odyssey* by Homer **[textbook]**
 - Poetic Devices in Epic Poetry
- Writing: Personal Narrative

Third 6 Weeks Focus:

- Reading: Nonfiction
 - *Night* by Elie Wiesel **[buy]**
- Writing: Literary Analysis

Sixth 6 Weeks Focus:

- **Spring Semester Exam**
- Reading: Drama
 - *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare **[textbook]**
 - Poetic Devices in Shakespearean Drama
- Writing: Literary Analysis