

Syllabus for English 8

Dear Minutemen,

It is hard to believe that we are starting a new school year! For those of you who are new to the school, welcome; I look forward to teaching you. For those of you who are returning and know me in some capacity, it's great to see you back! The following is a list of policies and procedures to overview how English 8 will run. I am asking you, upon finishing reading this, to please sign the last page of this form, showing me that you are willing to comply with the classroom management plan and class expectations. I would also like you to please have your parent read and sign it as well. I feel that together we will make our class a smooth running and enriching learning environment.

I. Course Description and Objectives

English 8 is an expansion of the literature, grammar, vocabulary, comprehension, speech, and composition skills developed in English 7. The texts and topics are similar, but a higher level of proficiency is expected of more mature students. Each quarter there will be a different "big idea" emphasis: Elements of Literature, The 6 traits of good writing, the Parts of Speech, Common Grammar mistakes – and these "big ideas" will be stressed throughout that quarter as we read and write. Literature units of poetry, nonfiction, short stories, novels, and drama are studied throughout the year. Both semesters have weekly vocabulary study, and composition is taught all year. A formal research paper is done in the first semester and three book reports are required (two regular and one alternative). Finally, students learn to verbally express their ideas through oral presentations, two formal speeches (expository and persuasive), and participation in class discussions. In this course longer works (*The Giver* and the play version of *The Diary of Anne Frank*) are read together mostly as a class.

II. Activities and Methods

Class teaching will consist of lecture with note-taking, activities, group work, discussions, exercises from the book, handouts, and both personal and peer editing.

III. Materials

- A three ring binder with 7 divider tabs (Exit project, Vocab, Literary Tests/Quizzes, Handouts, Writing, Paper, Projects/Misc.) to be used for English class ONLY, and you must have this in class every day
- A writing journal/notebook that has holes so that it can stay secure on the inside of your 3 ring binder
- *Wordly Wise 3000 Vocabulary* (handouts will be given to you)
- *The Giver* (this book will be loaned to the students from the school)
- *Prentice Hall Literature Silver Level* (this book will be loaned to the students from the school)
- Pens (black or blue only)/#2 pencils/highlighter
- Notebook Paper (college ruled)
- A RED pen for grading (must have this every day)
- Various handouts from a wide variety of curriculum resources

IV. Classroom Expectations

Liberty has a set of expectations for all students in the school. These include a universal attendance policy, dress code, and discipline system that will be regularly enforced in this classroom. In addition to the school-wide policies, the following expectations outline acceptable behavior in my classroom. My classroom policy is for students to follow the **Five P's**:

1. Be **Prepared** for class. Bring your assignments, textbooks and supplies to class.
2. Be **Polite** by respecting others. Respect should be shown to fellow students, the teacher, and yourselves. Respecting others means treating them as you would like to be treated.
3. Be **Productive** by doing your own work. Your work is a reflection of your personal knowledge and understanding of the subject matter. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly. Also, don't waste my time, your time, or your fellow students' time.
4. Be **Punctual**. If you are not in the classroom by the time the bell rings, you will be tardy.
5. Be **Positive**. "A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort." - *Herm Albright*

V. Classroom Policies/Procedures

In order to keep the classroom running smoothly and without interruption that will waste valuable class time, I will be implementing a series of procedures each day.

- Students are not to be in the classroom without teacher supervision.
- Students are expected to walk into the room in a quiet manner.
- After entering the classroom students are to find their seats and be ready to start class.
- When a student has been given the opportunity to speak other students are to be respectful and listen. Pay attention because you might (and probably will) need to know the same information.
- Obedience to the teacher is expected to be prompt and cheerful. Gripping and negative attitudes will not be tolerated, as they are contagious and damaging to the character of the student and school.
- If students have a question, they are to raise their hand and wait to be called on.
- The classroom should be silent from the time any test or quiz is distributed to the time the last one is turned in. Should a student not adhere to this rule it may result in points being taken off of his/her assessment.
- Students are to keep their eyes on their own paper at all times and keep their answers covered as much as possible. If I suspect cheating I will confiscate the paper and it will be dealt with very seriously according to Liberty's Academic Dishonesty policy.
- Students will need to obtain permission from me to ever get up from their seat. Permission will or will not be granted based on the immediateness and logistics of their request.
- No passes will be issued to students to go to their locker to retrieve objects that they forgot to bring with them, nor will students be allowed to leave the classroom to use the restroom during the class.
- Eating, drinking, or gum chewing is not permitted in my classroom. A water bottle, however, will be allowed.
- All electronic devices, such as cell phones, calculators, ipods, etc., will be off and stored in a student's backpack should they be in my class. If I hear or see something I will confiscate it and it will not be returned until the end of the day. If I begin to suspect cell phone use in the class I will begin asking you to leave your cell phones on my desk for the duration of the class period.
- The class ends when I dismiss the class, not when the bell rings. Students are to remain seated and working until they are dismissed by me. Do not pack up early!

VI. Consequences

Failure to meet the aforementioned classroom expectations or comply with classroom policies will result in a series of consequences for your decisions. The following steps will be implemented in the event that a student fails to meet the classroom expectations/policies.

1. Warning/Personal Conference. You will be asked to stay after class (another time may be arranged) for a one-on-one talk with the teacher. Your behavior and a plan to improve it will be discussed.
2. Detention/Parent Letter. If you fail to correct the problem behavior you will receive a detention and a letter will be sent home explaining the problem behavior which should be returned signed by your parent. A detention will follow.
3. Sent to the principal/Possible Suspension. If the problem continues, you will be sent to the office for determination of further consequences.

VII. Absences

- When a student is absent it is their responsibility to retrieve all of their absent work from the designated tray, and to come see me with any questions about what they missed. I will not go to you. This is your responsibility.
- Students with an excused absence will be given the same number of days that they were absent to make up the missing work for full credit.
- Students with an excused absence will be expected to turn in all previous work on the day of return for full credit. Exceptions: papers will still be expected the day they are due- even if a student wasn't in class. You will be expected to email it to me.
- If a student has an excused absence the day before a test he/she will have the option of taking the test with the class on the day they return or taking the test the following day after school.
- Students with unexcused absences will receive a zero for anything they missed on that day, and a zero for anything not turned in the day they return to class.

VIII. Grading Policy

Grading will be done using a point system. Each assignment, quiz, test, etc. will have a point grade corresponding to it. Your grade for each assignment, activity, quiz, or test will be determined by your points earned out of the total points possible for each assignment. The total grade in the class will simply be the points you have earned for the entire marking period out of the total points possible. There is no weighting done to your class grade.

Work should be completed in pen. All papers will be typed and submitted to turnitin.com.

1. **Homework.** Homework will be turned in before class begins into the homework folder. Any assignment that comes in after that will be late. Late assignments will be accepted up to one day late, but half the points will be taken off. Any assignment more than one day late will be a zero and not accepted. Expect homework any day of the week with the exception of Wednesday.
2. **Quizzes.** Quizzes are a regular part of the class and serve several purposes. In addition to showing me what you have learned or read something that was expected of you, quizzes help you become more comfortable with the testing process, and provide you with a valuable resource for studying for tests. Quizzes can be given on any day, can be pop or announced, and will not take longer than 10-15 minutes to complete
3. **Tests.** Tests will be given at the completion of each unit, or possibly sub-unit. Tests will be similar to quizzes in structure, but different in length since they cover more topics. You should expect a test at least after every unit.
4. **Research Paper.** You will be required to research a topic and write a paper on that topic (career related).
5. **Speech.** You will be required to prepare and present 2 speeches throughout the year (1 expository/1 persuasive).
6. **Portfolio.** A portfolio will be kept and updated constantly throughout the semester- this is your binder for English class. All handouts, vocabulary, tests, quizzes, papers written, etc, will be kept neatly and accurately in this portfolio. I will be collecting your portfolio every few weeks for a grade. Your portfolio must be in class every day.
7. **Writing.** Various types of writing assignments will be assigned all throughout the semester. They will often be graded according to the 6 traits of writing rubric, and will need to be submitted to turnitin.com. Turnitin.com is not optional.
8. **Book Report.** There will be three book reports required for the year.
9. **Projects.** From time to time a project will be assigned to have you show me the concept of something you've learned in a creative way. They may or may not be group projects.
10. **Exit Portfolio.** You will always be working on your exit portfolio throughout the year, as due dates fall all throughout both semesters. More information to come in the 8th grade Exit Portfolio and Speech packet.
11. **Vocabulary Quizzes.** A Vocabulary quiz will be given at the completion of each lesson on Thursdays. You will always have 15 minutes to complete your vocabulary quiz.

IX. Grading Scale

The following is an outline of the grading scale. A final grade less than 60% will result in course failure. Grades will be rounded up. For example, if your final grade is 87.5% you will receive a B+, but if it is 87.4%, you will receive a B.

A (92-100%)	A- (90-91%)	
B+ (88-89%)	B (82-87%)	B- (80-81%)
C+ (78-79%)	C (72-77%)	C- (70-71%)
D+ (68-69%)	D (62-67%)	D- (60-61%)
F (below 60%)		

Grades will be available for viewing via the school's website on the internet. All students and parents have been assigned a code to access them. At the latest I will post grades from the previous week on the following Monday morning.

X. Conferences

I can be reached by e-mail either at sharoncoffee@libertychristian.org or at sharoncoffee1@gmail.com. My conference period on M,T,TH,F is 5th period from 11:35-12:20, and on W is from 12:35-1:10. Appointments can be made by either contacting the school office (714)841-3816 by phone or by contacting me by email.

As always students, please keep in mind that whatever you put into this course is what you will get out of it. I am looking forward to another great year,

Mrs. Coffee

Agreement Policy

I agree with and will comply with all classroom expectations and polices/procedures of English 8

Student's Name (print)

Parents' Names (print)

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

Student's Contact Information

Preferred Contact Information for Parents

(e-mail that you often check)

(e-mail) _____

(cell phone) _____

(home phone) _____

Students please sign here once you have gone to turnitin.com and added our class according to the instructions handed out to you on the turnitin.com flyer (takes less than 5 minutes).

Please return this sheet to the teacher once completed. Keep the other pages of your syllabus in your class binder for easy access throughout the school year.