

Instructor: Mr. Palsgaard
Class: English 1A
Time: Mon-Wed. 6:00-7:50
SANGER

English 1A is a course designed to teach the fundamentals of college writing so that you'll be able to read critically and analytically, discuss and write descriptive and expository. The majority of your grade will be based upon a portfolio of your work, which will consist of one in-class essay and three out of class essays, complete with all rough drafts and free writing done for each paper. Even though you'll be required to write several in class essays and four out of class essays, you only need to include one of the in-class papers and three of the out of class essays in your portfolio; one of the essays must be your research paper.

Book: *Reading Critically, Writing Well*. Ed. Axelrod/Cooper.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

(1) Portfolio: A portfolio of one in-class essay and three of your four out of class essays, plus all free writings and rough drafts with teacher and student comments, will determine the majority of your final grade. You must keep all of your work you will do for each essay. Do not throw free writings or rough drafts away. I consider a completed essays one in which has six to eight pages of free writing, a rough draft with teacher and student comments, and a clean draft. You will turn this in at the end of the semester. Note: One of your three essays must be the research paper.

(2) Homework: For each essay we will read from the book, I will expect a one page reader response. This does not have to be typed but can be written in pencil or pen. It does, however, need to be a complete page. I'll give you a question for each essay we read and you will write your thoughts about the question. Reader responses are graded on a cr/nc basis. If you show me you have thoroughly considered the ideas of the essay and you write a full page, then you'll receive credit (cr). If it's obvious you haven't read the essay or you didn't write a full page, then you'll receive no credit (nc). All homework is due at the beginning of class. I do not accept late homework. If you are absent the day homework is due, I'll allow you to turn it in on the following period.

(3) Presentations: Your group (peer editing group) will have to do two presentations throughout the semester. They will consist of either leading discussions on two essays from the book (*Reading Critically, Writing Well*) or peer edit two student papers. You need to spend at least fifteen minutes for each essay.

(4) Absences: If you have more than four absences, you will be immediately dropped from the class. This is the school's policy not mine. If you have not dropped the class on the last day to drop (October 13), I cannot drop you from the class, and no matter what your attendance, you will receive a grade. However, if you have six or more absences by the end of the term, you cannot receive anything higher than a C.

(5) Late Policy: If you are more than fifteen minutes late to class, I will consider you late. If you accumulate four of these, I'll count it as one absence.

Paper Format: All final drafts of essays should be typed and double-spaced and have a margin of one inch on all sides of the pages.

Grades:

60%= Portfolio: One in-class essay and three out of class essays. For each essay in your portfolio, you must include (except for the in-class essay) the free writing and rough drafts which has all comments made by teacher and group. Note: the free writing and rough drafts will be a part of your final grade. If you fail to turn in any one of the parts of the portfolio (free writing, rough draft with peer groups comments, rough draft with my comments), your essay will drop one letter grade; if you fail to turn in two of the parts, you'll drop two letter grades; if you only turn in a final draft, you receive an automatic D.

10%= Two tests: a mid-term and final (In class essays; while you still need to take both, you can include one of these in your portfolio)

20%= Homework: Reading responses (and all other work) & presentations

10%= Class participation

Holidays:

September 4	Labor Day Holiday
September 5	Staff Development Day
November 10	Veteran's Day
November 23-24	Thanksgiving

Last day to drop a semester length course is Friday, October 13.

Note: all work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Please consult pp. 495-99 and pp. 506-08 of *The Bedford Handbook* for Writers for a definition of plagiarism and information of documentation. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the summary of the Code of Student Conduct in your Schedule of Classes. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.

Example class schedule for each unit:

Week one: First hour of each class period, you will spend time in your groups free writing and briefly commenting on each others work. You should find a topic during this week, and, if possible, begin working on your 6-8 pages of free writing.

Week two: By the end of week two, you should not only have your topic but your 6-8 pages, which I will collect on the last period of the second week. You will also have time to comment on each other's free writing. If the 6-8 pages of free writing doesn't have comments from at least two people from your group, I won't comment on your free writing.

Week three: On the last class day, you'll bring a completed rough draft to class to be peer edited by your group. I would prefer you type them, but if they are hand-written, then they

need to be double-spaced and at least 6-8 pages, since hand-written pages aren't as long as typed papers. Please make your hand writing clean and legible. I will collect rough drafts at the end of the period; however, I won't make comments on your rough drafts if they aren't complete (3-4 pgs.) don't have at least two sets of responses from your peer editing group and if you didn't include the 6-8 pgs. of free writing.

Week four: Last class day of the week, you'll hand in everything: 6-8 pgs of free writing, rough draft with your group comments, and a clean draft. If you don't turn in your clean draft on this day, I will accept it late, but if you include it in the portfolio, the paper will be penalized one letter grade.

Due dates for first essay:

Aug. 23: 6-8 pgs. Free writing

Aug. 30: Rough draft

Sept. 11: Second rough draft