

Instructor: Mr. Palsgaard

Class: English 1A

Time: Mon-Wed: 6:00-7:50

English 1A is a course designed to teach the fundamentals of college writing so that you will be able to read critically and analytically, discuss and write descriptive and expository prose. 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 will 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 essay one in which has six to eight pages of free writing, a completed rough draft with teacher and student comments, a second draft with only teacher comments, and a clean draft. You will turn this in at the end of the semester. Note: One of the 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 will 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 or the day assigned, 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, March 8, 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.

(6) Paper Format: All first, second and final drafts of essays must be typed and double-spaced and have a margin of one inch on all sides of the pages; you don't need to type free writings.

#### 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 writings, rough drafts, second drafts and clean drafts which have 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, second draft with peer editing groups comments and my comments), your essay will drop one letter grade; if you fail to turn in two parts (free writing and rough draft), you will drop two grades; if you only turn in a final draft, you will receive an automatic D.

10%= Two tests: a mid-term and final; both will be in-class essays. You may include one of these in your portfolio.

20%= Homework: Reading responses, presentations, and all other work

10%= Class participation.

#### Holidays:

January 15	(M)	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 16	(F)	Lincoln Day observed
February 19	(M)	Washington Day observed
April 1-5	(M-F)	Spring recess (classes reconvene April 8)

Last day to drop a semester length course is Friday, March 8.

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:

Part 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.

Part Two: Beginning of the second week, you should not only have your topic but your 6-8 pages of free writing, 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.

Part Three: You will bring a completed rough draft to class, typed and double-spaced, to be peer edited by your group. 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 completed (3-4pgs.), 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.

Part Four: You will hand everything in: 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.