

English 3

Course Goals

Goal 1:

Expand your abilities and desire to explore literary and rhetorical texts.

Goal 2:

Become practiced creating thoughtful, sophisticated, deliberately organized compositions.

Goal 3:

Cultivate the spirit of an excellent student.

Goal 1: Expand your abilities and desire to explore literary and rhetorical texts.

Objectives:

- Apply close reading strategies to gain insights into a variety of American literary texts
- Understand the aim of literature and track the development of a literary idea through a text
- Understand what a poem is and what poems aim to do and practice discovering meaning in them
- Read and carefully deconstruct the technique of rhetorical texts
- Know the five elements of a narrative and use them for basic analysis
- Understand how diction creates denotative, connotative, and figurative meaning and why this matters
- Identify and describe important literary techniques, especially use of:
 - Metaphor
 - Arrangement
 - Sound
 - Irony
 - Paradox

- Appreciate the differences reading for pleasure, aesthetic, and rhetorical value
- Name and describe foundational works of literature and rhetoric in American history
- Identify, describe, and apply the ethos, pathos, and logos approaches to argument
- Discern point of view behind literary and informational texts and how this affects understanding it
- Discover reliable news sources and understand media biases

Goal 2: Become practiced creating thoughtful, sophisticated, deliberately organized compositions.

Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of how the writing process works both in your head and as you write.
- Master a personal writing process that creates quality work
- Become an experienced writer in a variety of forms:
 - Expository
 - Narrative
 - Persuasive
 - Poetic
- Know the elements of grammar and syntax, especially parts of speech, types of clauses, and sentence patterns
- Grow in the practice of reading literature and rhetoric as a writer
- Understand and pick up on ironic or satirical writing -- see the tension between meaning and intent

- Respond to critical writing about literary and rhetorical texts
- Know how to do informal, non-academic research without a library or librarian
- Increase the working vocabulary you use for your compositions

Goal 3: Cultivate the spirit of an excellent student.

Objectives:

- Take academic ownership of your skills, knowledge, habits and behavior
- Become comfortable in confusion and appreciate the value of the question
- Persist in reading difficult and/or extended texts
- Work through areas of confusion without giving up
- Read continuously in at least thirty-minute periods
- Read actively a continuous text of more than 300 pages
- Persist in writing complex and developing ideas
- Use writing itself as a tool to develop sophisticated ideas, then review for thesis or theme
- Apply writing strategies to clarify writing, making revision a natural practice
- Achieve a comfort level in presenting information to a class

- Know how to prepare for and participate in Socratic seminars and other forms of in-class discourse
- Know and practice how to engage authentically with an English class