

English 4

Course Goals

Goal 1:

An appreciation of the enduring value of literature, and a desire to pursue it later in life.

Goal 2:

The habit of reading and listening critically so you are not easily fooled.

Goal 3:

Confidence in using writing and speaking to present yourself to a high-stakes audience.

Goal 4:

Prepare for using English skills outside the secondary school classroom.

Goal 1: An appreciation of the enduring value of literature, and a desire to pursue it later in life.

Objectives:

- Name and describe works of literature and rhetoric you find personally interesting or important
- Apply close reading strategies to gain insights into a variety of 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
- 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

Goal 2: The habit of reading and listening critically so you are not easily fooled.

Objectives:

- Participation in your local, national, and global communities through meaningful reading and writing.
- Become comfortable in confusion and appreciate the value of the question
- Read and carefully deconstruct the technique of rhetorical texts
- 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
- Grow in the practice of reading literature and rhetoric as a writer

Goal 3: Confidence in using writing and speaking to present yourself to a high-stakes audience.

Objectives:

- Master a personal writing process that creates quality work
- Achieve a comfort level in presenting yourself to an audience
- 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
- 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 4: Prepare for using English skills outside the secondary school classroom.

Objectives:

- Take academic and professional ownership of your skills, knowledge, habits and behavior
- Persist in reading difficult and/or extended texts
- Work through areas of confusion without giving up
- Read continuously in at least thirty-minute periods
- 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
- Know and practice how to engage authentically with high-stakes academic or professional conversations