

Language is the pliable adhesive that helps to form, identify, and bind nations, communities, neighborhoods, groups, societies, and personal relationships. Language is also the means by which those groups give voice to their ideas, dreams, despairs, hopes, fears, memories of yesterday, and visions of tomorrow. - L. Andrews

Course Description and Objectives: Writer's Workshop is designed to develop and stretch students' writing skills beyond the bounds of theoretical academic frameworks. Students will explore works of published merit and practice workshop techniques in approaching this material as well as their own. Moreover, students will produce works of merit for personal edification as well as for serious readers. This course is designed to address the needs of individuals in the classroom and inspire students to create papers and performances that are meaningful, fresh, and beautifully and thoughtfully rendered. The class will require each student to adopt high standards, an artistic sensibility, and an unshakable belief in the power of words.

Course Requirements:

Participation: 20%

Much of the class is conducted as a workshop. There are no tests or quizzes. You must participate daily to receive credit for participation. The quality of your participation and the seriousness of your comments are very important. You will be expected to conduct yourself in an adult manner and to behave appropriately with respect for the rights, views, and efforts of others. For most assignments, you will be expected to share your work with the class through a distribution of copies.

Portfolio 35%

You will compile and submit polished material of various genres as I assign them. A grade will be assigned to the writing indicative of ability as well as effort and desire to improve. While I do not expect you to be accomplished poets or short story poets, I do expect that evidence of some acquired skill will be displayed in the work contained in the assignments.

Personal Memoir: 15%

Self-publication of a contemporary personal memoir complete with various creative writing pieces that reflect who you are. The publication must be a true reflection of you from title to the prologue to the various writings contained within. This collection should be a treasure for you to keep as a literary understanding of your life—as you see it thus far. View it as the capture and preservation of your teenage voice.

Publication: 10%

At least one of your pieces must be submitted to a credible source (ex. the school's literary magazine) for publication.

Final Exam: 20%

Essay on the art of writing.

Materials:

- **Writer's Notebook—binder**
- **Plenty of paper and pens**

General Information

Email is the best way to contact teachers. Please allow 24 hours for a response. Teacher emails are available at www.northviewhigh.com.

Class Rules

1. **Be prepared.** This means that students arrive to class on time, have all necessary materials, and begin work quietly at their desk when the bell rings.
2. **Be respectful.** Students must show respect for people and property. Foul language, teasing, and interrupting of fellow classmates or the teacher will not be tolerated.
3. **Be positive.** A student's attitude and behavior should always have a positive impact on the learning environment of this classroom.

Class Policies: The instructor, the students and their parents will abide by the rules and procedures in the student-teacher-parent handbook.

Absences/Make-up Work: *It is the student's responsibility to complete all work within the prescribed time.*

Please refer to the Student/Parent Handbook.

It is the student's responsibility to initiate make-up work, not the teacher's. Students will have the number of days absent to make up work (e.g. 2 days absent = 2 days to make up assignment).

****Assignments are also due at the beginning of the class period on the day they are due. *Homework and major assignments will be accepted late at the penalty of 10% to the final grade per day for three days. After the third day, assignments will be granted no more than 50%.***

Please note:

- Missed tests, quizzes, or presentations that were assigned before the student was absent will be due *the day* the student returns to school. Assignments that were not known will be due according to Fulton County policy - one day's grace for each day absent.
- Failure to make up the work according to these rules will result in a grade of zero.
- The instructor will NOT remind the student of work (including papers or tests) that needs to be made up. **It is the sole responsibility of the student to ask for make-up work and to provide late or missing work to the instructor.**

HONOR CODE:

As explained in the student handbook, cheating is defined as “the giving or receiving, in any form, information relating to a gradable experience.” Violations of the honor code will result in a zero for the assignment, plus an honor code violation form placed in the student’s disciplinary file. Read the handbook carefully to fully understand what constitutes a violation.

Northview HS English Department Plagiarism Statement: Plagiarism is presenting another’s words or ideas as though they are entirely one’s own.

Plagiarism is an Honor Code Violation.

Acts of plagiarism can include, but are not limited to:

1. Using words or ideas from a published source or the internet without proper permission;
2. Using the work of another student (e.g., copying another student’s homework, composition, or project in entirety **or** in part;
3. Using excessive editing suggestions of another student, teacher, parent, or paid author.

Excessive editing note: *Students learn to write well through practice and independent exploration of language manipulation. This effort, like any learning experience, often requires persistence and “perspiration.” Well-meaning parents, siblings, tutors, and others who contribute their own ideas, words, phrases, and revisions to a student’s writing, not only cause that student to miss the opportunity to achieve self-reliance, but also inhibit the student from presenting his own voice. Positive ways to help a student grow in his writing process include reading the paper or writing exercise and marking areas that need clarification, punctuation, elaboration, or more precise wording, allowing the student to figure out the error and correct it independently. Oftentimes having the student read the paper aloud will greatly help in error identification. Cues such as, “What exactly do you mean?” or “This sentence seems awkward” are also very appropriate.*

Plagiarism on any project or paper at Northview High School will result in a zero for the assignment and an Honor Code violation.

Unless directly stipulated by the teacher, collaboration on written work is not acceptable. Students who willingly provide other students with access to their coursework or homework are also in violation of the Honor Code.

Turnitin.com:

All students are required to create an account for turnitin.com. Students must submit all major written assignments to this website in order for the assignment to be accepted.

Provision for Improving Grades (formerly known as the “recovery” policy) – Updated from Board Policy Docs – Aug 2011

Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester.

Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

Video Viewing Guidelines: Within the curriculum there poses the opportunity for teachers to incorporate different forms of technology into the classroom. One of these forms of technology is the showing of clips of related movies or related movies in their entirety. Any video rated PG or PG-13 will have prior approval of administration. Any movie rated other than PG or PG-13 will require a separate permission slip.

Signature Sheet (Return to Teacher)

This sheet should be signed and returned; it will then be kept on file in the classroom. The rest of the syllabus should be kept at the front of your English notebook for the rest of the semester.

Video Viewing Guidelines: Within the curriculum there poses the opportunity for teachers to incorporate different forms of technology into the classroom. One of these forms of technology is the showing of clips of related movies or related movies in their entirety. These films will be rated G, PG, or PG-13. Any movie with a different rating will have a separate permission slip. If you have any concerns about video viewing, please indicate the concern on the bottom of this form.

____ I grant my child permission to view and listen to the supplemental media included in the curriculum over the course of the year (material viewed could range from a rating of **G to PG-13 or NR**).

____ I do not grant my child permission to view and listen to the supplemental media included in the curriculum over the course of the year. I would like for him/her to be given an alternate assignment.

I read and understand the syllabus and classroom policies.

Student's Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Date

STUDENT AND PARENT INFORMATION -- Please print clearly.

Student Name

Parent Name

Best number to reach a parent during the school day

Home phone number

Parent cell phone number

Parent email address

Student email address