

Welcome SENIORS to Composition (English 12)!

Purpose and Objectives:

The purpose of this class is to help you connect academic learning to real-life situations and prepare for your post-high school lives. In most jobs, you need to be able to write and communicate clearly, read and understand complex directions, instructions, manuals, and complete and share research on new projects, ideas and procedures. That is why in this course you can expect to read, write, discuss, and THINK every single day!

Class Rules:

- Be respectful to others' property, beliefs, ideas and opinions, and right to learn.
- Be honest.
- Be an active participant. This is a class that demands participation in many ways (i.e., group projects, presentations, class discussions, etc.).

Expectations:

- You are responsible for your own behavior, words, and actions.
- You must be prepared **every** day with your binder, an R&R book, pen or pencil, and loose-leaf paper, no excuses.
- You are expected to complete all work ON TIME and TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.
- All homework is due at the beginning of the class period.
- **All** work handed in will be quality work. This means that papers will be typed (or neatly handwritten in blue or black ink if I have given you that option).

Grading:

You will earn grades based on the criteria of each task. You should do your best on every assignment, test, and paper regardless of its point value. Homework assignments, response writing, in-class lessons, note taking, and quizzes help you attain, assemble, and organize the skills and information you will use for later assignments such as papers, presentations, group projects, and final exams.

Your grade is based on total points earned in the following categories:

- ☺ Participation
- ☺ Reading & Writing
- ☺ Vocabulary
- ☺ Quizzes & Tests
- ☺ Extra Credit (See posted *English Challenge Opportunities* handout)

Major Assignments:

- You will write extensively both in class and out of class.
- You will read and interact with a variety of texts—both fiction and non-fiction.
- You are expected to read each night for enjoyment to work towards the completion of 20 books by May. This goal will not be difficult to reach as we have in-class R & R (Reading & Responding) every Friday.
- You will write a well-researched synthesis, multi-draft essay and complete other projects, which will require access to a library and/or the Internet as well as a Gmail acct that is dedicated solely for academic use.

Peer Review:

In accordance with our core curriculum, you will participate in peer review and will, at times, assess each other's work. This has an important educational purpose: it allows you to review assignments and quizzes and consider writing styles, processes, and problem solving different from your own.

Materials:

- ★ 3-ring binder-2” (stays in classroom)
- ★ Tab dividers (8 tabs)
- ★ **Student Planner/Calendar**
- ★ A “R&R” book of your choice
- ★ A pencil, pen & highlighters
- ★ Textbook (Literature, Writing, Vocabulary, novel, etc.)
- ★ You may discreetly bring snacks or water to class. If you are indiscreet, you will be instructed to share or toss.
- ★ Google Mail account. See *Setting Up a Gmail Account* handout on my blog at <http://www.gcsdblogs.org/Schneden>

Tardies and Absences:

Tardy students disrupt their peers and inhibit their own opportunity to learn. I will mark students tardy who are not **in their seats, ready to learn, when the bell rings**. In order to be admitted late, you must have a note from the office or another teacher. If you are tardy, enter quietly, place your pass on my black table, and do not interrupt the class.

Students who have been absent are responsible for acquiring class information and make-up work. In order to receive credit, you will need to complete any missing assignments within the customary number of days.

★ Nothing can substitute for attendance. Be here!

Late Work Policy:

First semester, if something due is turned in after the due date, your grade will be lowered one letter grade for each day it is late. Second semester any assignments turned in after the due date will earn a maximum of 50% of the total points possible. Your health, mental and physical, always takes priority. Talk with me if you can't meet a deadline—before the assignment is due. If you wish to discuss an individual grade we can meet at a mutually agreed upon time, not during class.

Contact Information:

Please feel free to contact me about the curriculum or any other class-related matter. I believe in openly communicating with all students, parents, and guardians. You may also check the district website for any other questions about specific school policies not listed here. Please let me know in advance if you'd like to meet with me.

Email: mschneden@dist228.org

Web page: <http://www.gcsdblogs.org/Schneden> **Phone:** 309-945-0399

I reserve the right to change class policies should it prove necessary to meet the needs of the students. Students, parents, and guardians will be notified of any changes. I am confident that if we work together as a team, every student can succeed.

After reading through this syllabus, please complete the Disclosure Acknowledgement form on the next page, date it, sign it, have a parent/guardian sign it, and return just that page to me by **Friday, Aug 19th for 5 completion points**.

Thank you,

Mrs. Schneden

Disclosure Acknowledgement for Composition/English 12

Student's name _____

Address _____ Home phone _____

Parents' / Guardians' full names: _____ Work/Cell phone: _____

Best time and place to call (please specify if this is work, home, or cell number):

Email addresses _____ / _____

Special concerns

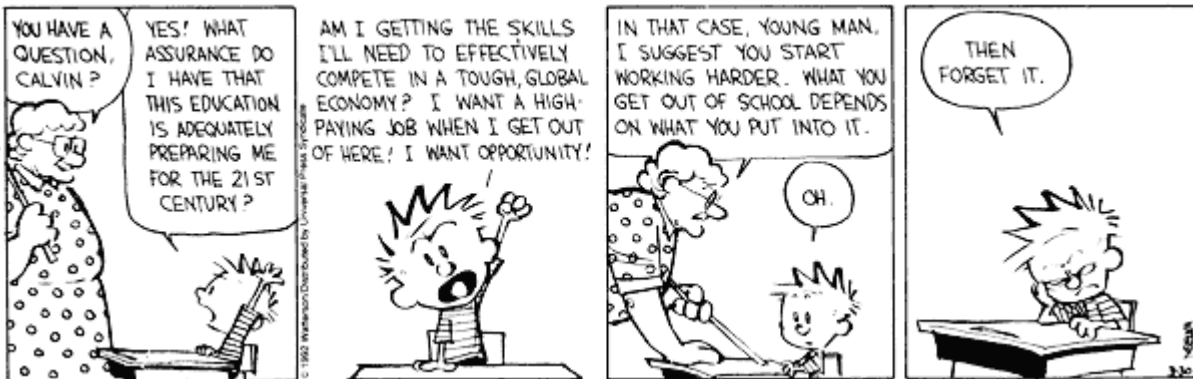
I have read and understand the syllabus for Composition/English 12.

Student's signature _____

Date _____

Parent's or Guardian's signature _____

Date _____





Homework for Parents-Optional, but Encouraged ☺



**IN A MILLION WORDS OR LESS...
PLEASE TELL ME ABOUT YOUR CHILD.**

Fall 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am so excited for this new school year, and the opportunity to be your child's English teacher.

Our senior program of study offers a balanced curriculum where the students will write as much as they read. Your child will also participate in literature circles and writer's workshops, and Socratic Seminars in class. My goal for my English 12 students this year is to help them gain confidence and strategies for success in preparing them for their post-high school lives. The more I know about the students, the better I'll be able to help them get the assistance they need this year.

In light of these facts, I would like to ask you to write a quick note and tell me about your child. The concept behind this is simple—you know more about your child than I do. It often takes a month or more to really get to know my students. Yes, I was lucky enough to have some of the kids as freshmen, but for others this is our first class together. The person who knows your child best is...YOU! This year, I am going directly to the source.

Rest assured, I will be reading each and every note and will use the knowledge you so generously bestow on me to strengthen the education your child receives from me this year. However, I would also like you to know that I value you and your child's privacy and will not share the notes without your express permission.

Please feel free to take some time in completing your note, but I would like to have it as soon as possible. Feel free to send it in with your student or email it to me mschneden@dist228.org

Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to do this for your student and me. I look forward to a great year with your child!

Sincerely,

Michelle Schneden