

## AP Language- Classroom Policies

Mr. Nunes

***“If you can not write well, you can not think well, and if you can not think well, others will do your thinking for you.”***

***--George Orwell***

- Purpose of Course:**
- To prepare students for college level writing
  - To instruct students in basic expository writing
  - To prepare students to pass the AP Exam
  - To fulfill OHS Junior or Senior English requirement

**Required Texts:** *The Great Gatsby*  
*The Awakening/Chopin*  
Non-fiction essays, letters, speeches supplied by the teacher

### Classroom Expectations

I expect good behavior from each student:

- Respect your fellow students.
- Do not talk when someone else has the floor.
- Feel free to courteously share your ideas with the class; we all learn from each other.
- Engage in group work and discussion—don't let others do work for you. “The answer” is **not** the point; your ability to think **is** the point.

### Procedures

- Class begins with the ringing of the tardy bell. Please be in the room before the tardy bell begins to ring.
- Written assignments are due at the *beginning* of the class.
- Absences are your responsibility; you must ask for make up work. Do this BEFORE class begins. Do not expect me to remind you to make up your work. **You have the same number of days missed to complete the work.**
  - Note: Fridays are designated essay days. If you miss a Friday, you will need to make up the essay the day you return AFTER SCHOOL to allow proper time to write the essay.

### Supplies:

3-Ring Binder (a section for AP Lang work) with binder paper  
Pens—essays should be written in blue or black ink.  
Highlighters/Colored Pens (4 colors).

### Grading

This AP course is approved by the College Board; it is a rigorous course designed to prepare students to pass the AP Language Exam. The final course grade is weighted as an indicator of the rigor required. Because of this, the grade you earn in this class is a “weighted” grade. An “A” in this class is worth more in terms of grade points than an “A” in a College Prep class. The “A” here is also a more difficult standard. Do not expect an A merely for completing work and being conscientious. If you earned a B- or lower grade in a College Prep class, this class is NOT the class for you.

Your grade in this class comes primarily from your writing and assessments.

### Grades are weighted as follows:

50%=Writing

20%=Tests/Quizzes/Finals

30%=Classwork, Homework, Participation

**Participation and regular attendance are important to your grade. Class discussions and group work cannot be recreated; missing these will make your writing tasks more difficult. Frequent or unexcused absences will have a negative impact on your grade.**

\*I do NOT round grades. Please don't ask.

\*Grades are usually entered Sunday night. If you need an updated grade during the week, come see me.

**NOTE: This course is a blocked class. This means FINAL GRADES will be issued in December and June. All other grading periods will be progress grades.**

### **Writers and Writing**

All students are writers! All summative writing assignments MUST be completed. If a student fails to turn in a summative writing assignment, Intervention will be used to assist that student in completion of the assignment. Students will have some freedom to choose topics for writing as well as opportunity to apply writing skills in other classes. Students will also be expected to write 3 types of timed essays for the AP exam: analysis, argument and synthesis.

Writing scores will be the primary basis for final course grades. Two kinds of writing will apply—timed essays and take-home papers. Timed writings will be graded using a rubric designed by the College Board...this is the same evaluation scale that will be used to score student essays on the AP Language and Composition Exam. Often, students will write 3 timed essays, score and discuss those essays then choose the best of the 3 essays for a final grade on the essay packet. Take-home essays will be graded based on adherence to the assignment requirements, the assigned writing strategy and the development, voice and style of the writer. Students should expect to have their essays read and discussed by the teacher and by others in the class.

### **Academic Honesty (from OHS Student Handbook)**

Oakmont High School has a commitment to academic honesty. The Viking Expectation of Integrity affirms that we believe in the intrinsic value learning, and that we therefore demand personal integrity and intellectual honesty in all academic work and related interactions.

**Plagiarism** is defined as using another person's words, pictures, charts, or ideas without properly giving that person credit. Using another person's intellectual property without citation is theft. At Oakmont High School, students are taught how to use the ideas of other's as evidence to develop their thoughts, not as a substitution for their own ideas. Students are taught that plagiarism will not be accepted.

There are three types of plagiarism:

- Direct copying of material without proper citation. This includes cutting and pasting from websites and copying directly from a book.
- Use of large segments (sentences or even phrases) of un-cited, copied wording mixed in with your own words.
- Relying heavily on a source instead of using the ideas in the source to establish your own thoughts.

**Collusion** is defined as a secret agreement between two parties to commit a fraudulent act; therefore supporting the academically dishonest behavior of another student. This could include allowing one's homework or an assignment to be copied or submitted for assessment by another student or sharing answers to a test. This includes work completed in previous years. An example of collusion is the sharing of work between siblings in different year levels.

In a composition course like AP Language, you are here to improve your writing. This means that the writing must be yours and you must learn how to improve it through revision. Strong writing skills are the foundation for much of the work you will do in college and beyond. Your essays will be submitted to plagiarism software to ensure that the work is your own and that you have properly cited sources.

**Any infraction of academic honesty in this class is a serious violation and will be dealt with as such.**

### **Student Assistance**

- I am available to help students and I encourage writing conferences. Please **see me to arrange time for extra help** if there is something you don't understand or if there is something you would like to work on. I also work with students during scheduled Intervention periods.
- My room is usually open before and after school for students who would like a place to meet.
- Email contact for Mr. Nunes: [dnunes@rjuhsd.us](mailto:dnunes@rjuhsd.us)
- Phone contact: (916) 782-3781 ext. 2313

**Parents and Students:** Please use this [LINK](#) to acknowledge receipt and understanding of the course objectives.