

Mrs. Scharf Room 302
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Website: under construction

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

-Nelson Mandela

Expository Reading and Writing Composition

What is the ERWC?

The Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC), is a full-year college preparatory English course for high school seniors taken in place of the traditional British Literature, Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate courses. The ERWC aligns with the Common Core English-Language Arts Standards, addresses critical reading and writing problems identified by the CSU English Placement Test Committee, and prepares students to meet the expectations of college and university faculty.

Course assignments, organized into 14 modules and based largely on non-fiction texts, emphasize the in-depth study of expository, analytical, and argumentative reading and writing. The University of California has approved the ERWC for area "b" credit (from the "a-g" requirements), and the course meets college preparatory requirements for both UC and CSU institutions.

Instructional Targets

This year you will be introduced to and will gain mastery over the Common Core standards and other university expectations. By the end of the year you will *know* and show you are able to *do* the following:

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• use your understanding of roots and prefixes to understand new words and interpret their denotative and connotative meanings• read, analyze and respond to literary texts• write effective and well supported arguments• demonstrate your ability to follow the conventions of grammar through writing• question the texts you encounter on a higher level | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• use all steps of the writing process to develop clear essays• effectively communicate both orally as well as through writing• become actively involved while reading• demonstrate critical thinking skills• research, read, analyze and understand informational texts |
|--|--|

Your proficiency in meeting each of the Common Core standards comprises 100% of your grade in this course. As your teacher, my goal is for **each of you** to improve your critical thinking and college and career readiness skills. To that end, anything that I can do to encourage you, motivate you or just plain annoy you, I will do! Please note that I am here to do more than facilitate your academic learning, so if I can be of help to you in any area of concern, **my door is always open!**

Classroom Courtesies:

- ❖ Use respectful language at all times!!! Everyone deserves to learn in a safe environment.
- ❖ Be on time, in class before the bell rings. The GOHS tardy policy will be in effect at all times.
- ❖ Clean up your area daily; trash goes in the can, **recycling in the Recycling Bin!** Do not write on the desks.
- ❖ Please place gum in the trash can, **NOT** under your desk.
- ❖ The GOHS Electronic Device Policy will be enforced at all times. There will be times when using electronic devices is appropriate-but that is up to **ME**-be sure to ask permission.
 - Phone Zone Policy.
- ❖ No grooming in class. That includes: make-up, brushes, smelly lotions, sprays, etc.
- ❖ The bathroom passes are to be used at appropriate times only. Not when I or a fellow student is talking.
- ❖ **Plagiarism of any kind will result in an automatic zero, referral, and a conference with your parent or guardian.**
- ❖ Utilize class time wisely. Do not waste time allotted for process papers, group tasks or projects, or **you will lose it.**

Scoring:

Great Oak High School's English department determines grades based on level of mastery of standards. The categories students are assessed in are:

Categories of Instruction	Percentage of Total Grade
❖ Writing	30%
❖ Reading Literature/ Informative	35%
❖ Speaking and Listening	20%
❖ Language	15%

ALWAYS SAVE YOUR
WORK. USE A FLASH
DRIVE WHENEVER
POSSIBLE

MISS SCHOOL, MISS OUT

You may see me before or after class for any missed assignments. You have as many days as you miss to make up missed assignments. Work assigned prior to an absence is due the day you return to class.



- ***All missed quizzes must be made up within ONE week.***
- ***Failure to complete any major writing assignment such as an essay or research project will result in an “Incomplete” on your transcript and will not be changed until the missing assignment is completed.***

LATE WORK POLICY

I do NOT accept unexcused late work. You are expected to turn in all of your assignments on time. As a senior, organization and responsibility are of the utmost importance and are pillars of success in high school, college and beyond. Oftentimes we will be using or reviewing homework the next day, so if you choose not to do your homework, not only will your grade be adversely affected, but more importantly you will be missing out on learning. If you feel yourself becoming overwhelmed or falling behind, please see me ASAP so that we can develop a plan to get you back on track.

GOHS ENGLISH DEPARTMENT HOMEWORK PHILOSOPHY

You will not be assessed on all homework. Any meaningful homework assigned in this class will be an opportunity for you to **practice a particular standard** in order to gain proficiency in that standard. I will expect that students come to class having completed any assigned homework. **Failure to complete homework will be reflected in both your work habits and citizenship.**

Again, I sincerely look forward to working with you to make your senior year your best year at Great Oak High School. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Please return this portion to Mrs. Scharf

Review the syllabus with your parent(s) or guardian(s) and provide the contact information below. Please sign acknowledging that you have read and understand the syllabus for ERWC.

Student Name (Print): _____ Student Signature: _____

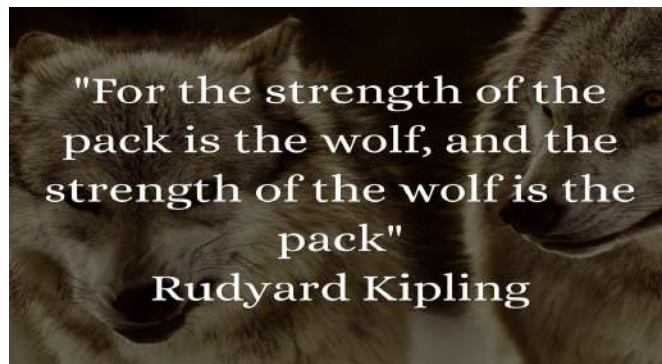
Student Phone: _____ **Student Contact Email:** _____

Parent Name (Print): _____ Parent Signature: _____

Parent Contact Phone: _____ **Parent Contact Email:** _____

***Please note that I may use email to keep you informed about your student's learning and assignments and my website will contain up-to-date info (as soon as it is up and running).

***Infinite Campus is also updated on a regular basis.



"For the strength of the
pack is the wolf, and the
strength of the wolf is the
pack"
Rudyard Kipling