

English 9 Course Outline

NPBS 2022-2023



MEET THE TEACHER: MS. MCKENNA

This is my 11th year teaching high school English and my 5th year teaching English 9 at NPBS! I am looking forward to a beautiful year. Welcome to NPBS!

Contact me at:

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[My website](#) (a resource for parents & students)



IN ENGLISH 9, WE WILL LEARN:

How to close read, how to identify and analyze a variety of writing types and purposes, how to understand rhetoric, how we think & learn (metacognition), how & why we read & write, how to self-evaluate, & how to grapple with the messiness of learning.



BIG IDEAS

The big ideas of this class are tied to the essential skills and content of the course, as well as the [Common Core Standards for ELA, Grades 9-10](#).



GRADING POLICY

I use a total points grading system: all assignments have a point value between 1 and 100. Major assignments will be worth 50-100 points, while minor assignments will be worth less. Assignments worth more points weigh more, and assignments with fewer points weigh less.

(From the Faculty Handbook) The grading policy and grading procedures of New Paltz High School include the following:

1. Students' grades shall be based on a variety of oral and written work samples, homework, examinations and class participation.
2. Class work is the predominant activity and absence from class for any reason is discouraged. It is the student's responsibility to take the initiative to get assignments and to make up work that is missed due to a legal absence.
3. Students must recognize that the reconstruction of daily lessons and examinations on an individual basis is not always possible. Therefore, absences should be limited to times of emergency. The student's failure to make up missed class work will result in loss of credit for the respective assignments and possibly, the course.



ENGLISH 9 TEXTS

The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater

The Crucible by Arthur Miller

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Night by Elie Wiesel

Romeo & Juliet by Wm. Shakespeare

Short stories

Documentaries & films

Poems



CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Before class	When I get to class	During class	After class
•Complete Reading/HW •Check Google Classroom •Charge Chromebook	•Find your seat •Put cell phone away and out of sight •Check Agenda •Start the Do Now or SSR	•Listen carefully •Participate fully •Try your best •Respect others •Ask questions	•Check Google Classroom for notifications and make up work •Stay after school in room 164 for help



MY EXPECTATIONS OF YOU AS A STUDENT

- You will take risks with your writing
- You will write and read A LOT!
- You will take ownership of what you write and read (and be proud of your work)
- You will talk A LOT about what you write and what you read
- You will take yourself seriously and work to your potential

I am super flexible. If you need more time on an assignment or if ANYTHING comes up, please communicate with me! Communication and connection are more important than ever this year. I will always, always, always provide my students with whatever opportunities they need to be successful.



SSR PROGRAM

SSR stands for Sustained Silent Reading. We will begin each class with SSR. You will learn about yourself as a reader and explore new texts to read. SSR is reading for enjoyment - but it also has positive academic consequences. You will be expected to come to class prepared with your SSR text each time we meet. Learn more at the links below:

- Understanding [WHY WE READ](#).
- [Statement on Independent Reading](#) (National Council for Teachers of English)
- [How to Stop Killing the Love of Reading](#) (podcast and article, Cult of Pedagogy)

THE WRITER'S NOTEBOOK

As my student and as a thinker, I want you to write as much as possible. You must step away from the idea that if it is not graded, it is not important. This is where the writer's notebook is essential. You will have a one subject notebook with you every day we meet - you may leave it in the classroom if you wish. Sometimes, we will write digital writer's notebook entries using our Chromebooks. I also have my own writer's notebook and will be writing along with you! Taking risks in writing in order to grow and learn is a large part of our learning in English 9, and I look forward to reading and writing with you!