

**Ewing High School  
English Department  
Proficiency Statements  
Foundations of English**

Foundations of English courses provide an opportunity for students to develop their reading and writing skills, specifically focusing on the skills necessary to meet high school graduation requirements. Students will examine high-interest literature and will work to develop the higher-level thinking skills needed to perform at proficiency on the New Jersey High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA). Class discussion and responsive writing will enable students to analyze literature, persuasive writing will provide opportunities for students to voice their concerns and opinions related to issues relevant to the lives of high school students, and narrative writing in response to speculative or explanatory prompts will help students refine the craft of story-telling. Enrollment in Foundations of English courses is based upon a student's performance on state standardized assessments.

To be proficient a student must satisfactorily complete the following:

**Assessment**

1. Participate in large and small group discussions
2. Respond to objective test items
3. Respond to open-ended questions
4. Draft, revise, and edit persuasive essays
5. Complete projects as assigned by the teacher
6. Maintain an organized notebook

**Literature**

1. Read, analyze, and complete assignments for units on fictional literature including short stories and novels, nonfiction text, and everyday reading
2. Recognize and analyze literary elements, literary devices, and stylistic patterns as they are used in reading selections
3. Respond to open-ended questions focusing on various works

**Writing**

1. Utilize the writing process when responding to writing prompts presented in class
2. Use appropriate conventions of mechanics, grammar, and usage
3. Revise and edit numerous original works
4. Speculate about a given picture, situation, prompt, etc.
5. Persuade an audience in writing utilizing persuasive techniques

**Vocabulary**

1. Use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words
2. Use new words in writing and speaking
3. Respond to test questions about vocabulary words

**Speaking**

1. State and support opinions during class discussions
2. Select and discuss literary passages and question literary interpretations of peers

**Listening**

1. Take concise notes from class lectures or presentations
2. Listen selectively, critically, attentively, and courteously to a variety of speakers