



# WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Level Up: *RISE* to Your Potential

Westside High School

English Syllabus for

Mrs. Mayfield's Class

In this course, students will take center stage, preparing all students **for Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing** (we will assess students and then progress to understanding the Fundamentals of The English Language. **deeper reading and analytical writing**) This course trains the **reader** to observe the **intricate details** in a text to arrive at a **deeper understanding** of the whole. It also trains the reader to appreciate authors' sometimes-subtle choices, develop an awareness of **how words produce effects**, make inferences and predictions, and explains how the conventions of the English language are used for both precision and style. As writers, students focus first on **crafting simple sentences, and later more complex sentences**, building this foundational skill; they then move on to **producing well-organized paragraphs** and, as the year progresses, more sophisticated, longer-form essays. The end result will allow the students to proudly showcase their English skills !



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will have the opportunity to develop strategies and knowledge to:

- Read closely and analyze a range of complex literary and informational texts.
- Value textual evidence and incorporate it effectively in writing and speaking.
- Understand how writers and speakers use specific words and sentences to move the thoughts, emotions and actions of readers and listeners.
- Build Vocabulary.
- Improve pronunciation in Target Language.
- Understand how words are constructed in a sentence.
- Evaluate texts -→ Synthesize information learned in class.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students should be able to do the following:

- Interpret type relevant details and features of a work to write an analysis.
- Engage directly and effectively with a wide variety of literary and nonfiction texts.

- Make conscious choices about the precise words or combination of words to express their thoughts in their writing and their speech.
- Conduct informal and longer, more sustained research to solve problems and propose solutions that are informed by credible sources.
- Engage in academic conversations by entering an open exchange of ideas by asserting their evidence-based views on a topic or text while actively listening to and elaborating on others' ideas.
- Speak more fluently than when the student arrived in this classroom.
- Read more fluently than when the student arrived in this classroom.
- Write progressively to learn and improve writing skills.
- Make inferences by listening to and reading what is being conveyed.

## **COURSE GRADING**

### 60% --Major grades

- Projects
- Essays
- Multiple Choice/Short answer Tests
- Exams

### 40% Minor grades

- Daily assignments
- Vocabulary and Reading quizzes
- Homework

## **ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS**

Maintain a high level of academic integrity. Cheating is defined as giving or receiving aid on any assignment, be it homework or during an exam. I read everything you complete in this class, and turning in the same homework as someone else will earn both students zero percents on the assignment that they cannot make-up. **I cannot differentiate between the cheater and the cheated, so both students will suffer for making this choice.**

## RE - TAKE POLICY

The Houston Independent School District's (HISD) School Guidelines explain that "A student may be allowed a reasonable opportunity to make up or redo a class assignment or examination for which the student received a failing grade."

At Westside High School, a re - take is an assessment that matches the rigor and objectives of an original exam. Retakes often increase a student's grade, but they may not. The primary purpose is a second opportunity to demonstrate mastery of course material.

### Student Re - take Eligibility

Students who score less than a 70% may be eligible for a retake. In order to qualify for a retake, **students must attend tutorials**. If a student does not attend tutorials, they may not be eligible for a retake. Please contact your teacher with any questions. On top of that, the following may also be required to qualify for retake eligibility:

- Complete prerequisite homework/daily assignments
- Complete prerequisite quizzes
- Complete test corrections

Daily grades **are not eligible for a re - take** if missed. Please refer to the HISD Absence policy regarding missed assignments if you have any other questions.

## LATE WORK

Late work will automatically be subject to the **highest possible grade of 70 percent** regardless of its weight (Daily, Quiz, Exam). This applies to the **first day late only**. After the first day late, the work will **no longer be accepted** without proper documentation. Please refer to the HISD Absence policy regarding documentation if you have a question.

## ABSENCES

Students who are absent on the day an assignment is due are expected to turn in the assignment upon their return to the class. A student absent on the day of a test is expected to make up the test after school on their return to campus. **If the student does not report to make up the exam within the previously stated time frame, NO CREDIT (0%, ZERO) will be given for that test. It is the STUDENT'S responsibility to Power Teacher Pro Student Version and with me to see what assignments have been missed.**

**\*\*\*Extra credit will rarely be made available. These assignments are not mandatory and will be at teacher's discretion.\*\*\***

### **TUTORIAL SCHEDULE**

I am available for tutorials on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** during the first half of lunch.

### **DEVICES**

The only device allowed to be used during class is your school-issued computer and it **MUST BE BROUGHT EVERY DAY**. I will **NOT** make hard copies for assignments or tests that are online unless it is a documented Accommodation. Phones and Bluetooth devices (such as air pods) are not allowed. Phones that are left or taken out during class are subject to confiscation.

### **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS**

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in this class. Students are now in high school. In this class they will be expected to conform to both school and district expectations of student behavior. Infractions for disruptions (excessive talking, sleeping, cell phone use, profanity, et cetera) will follow the guidelines laid out in the HISD Student Code of Conduct. 1<sup>st</sup> infraction will be a warning. 2<sup>nd</sup> infraction will be a parent/ student conference. 3<sup>rd</sup> infraction will be a written referral to the Discipline Office. No exceptions and no excuses will be made.

### **CAVEAT**

The student will be expected to be open-minded and willing to explore new ideas and concepts. Mutual respect will be mandatory in this classroom. Students are expected to respect the Teacher and one another. Students are expected to follow the classroom rules and procedures or face the consequences. **RESPECT** is mandatory to become a citizen of our Civil Society. Be prepared for this.

**WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL**

**MRS. MAYFIELD'S ENGLISH CLASS**

**STUDENT SIGNATURE**

I have read, am familiar with, and accept the requirements and expectations of the entire syllabus packet for Mrs. Mayfield's English class.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Student email address (one that you check regularly, please):

\_\_\_\_\_

Students, please write two examples of what **RESPECT** looks like at school and inside of the classroom.

1.

2.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN**

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Would you please sign and fill out the form below? It must be returned with a Parent or Guardian Signature within five days. You may also email me at [Valerie.KerschenMayfield@houstonisd.org](mailto:Valerie.KerschenMayfield@houstonisd.org) to acknowledge that you have read the syllabus packet. If you email me, make sure to respond with your complete contact information (phone numbers and alternate email addresses). This way I will have your correct email address already on file, and it also gives you an opportunity to communicate any information you feel is important for me to know so that I can help your son or daughter to be successful in my English class this year. Make sure you include the name of your son or daughter in the subject line of the email.

**Please sign and fill out the information below.**

I have read the syllabus and classroom expectations for **Mrs. Mayfield's** class.

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Parent/Guardian name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work telephone: \_\_\_\_\_