

11th Grade Honors English

Mr. Mikesell

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About Your Teacher

I am from Pocatello, Idaho, and I graduated from BYU with a degree in English teaching. After graduating from BYU, I spent time in Peru studying Spanish; I also volunteered at a boy's orphanage and school in Peru. Recently, I finished a master's degree from BYU in Educational Leadership. I enjoy reading, 4-wheeling, and skiing. I've been married for a few years and have two children. I want you to succeed and have a good experience this year. Please know that I am always available before and after school to help you with any problems or concerns that you may have. It is important to me that you feel comfortable in my classroom!

Classroom Expectations

1. I show respect, by my words and actions, to teachers, to staff, to other students and to the school itself.
2. I am in my seat and prepared with needed materials and homework when the bell rings.
3. I am quiet, courteous, and speak only when appropriate.
4. I am responsible for all information presented in class and for following teacher directions immediately.
5. I focus on the educational task at hand and keep myself positively engaged.

Consequences

Positive participation is key to making a classroom work. Because I want you to have a good experience there are consequences for failure to participate in a positive way.

1. You fix it warning: This is your chance to correct your own mistake.
2. Mr. Mikesell fixes it: If you fail to meet a classroom expectation, I will dock your participation grade.
3. Your parents fix it: I will contact your parents to help correct your mistake.
4. The administration fixes it: One of our administrators will help you correct your mistake.

Positive Consequences

I think there should be positive consequences as well for students who are doing what they are supposed to be doing each day. We will discuss these more in class.

Grades and Grading Scale

Students will receive the grade that they earn. I cannot provide last minute extra credit or make up work to raise a grade. However, I will give you opportunities to redo assignments. I believe that every student who works hard can get a good grade and that grades are not the only indicator of performance.

94-100% (A)	80-82% (B-)	65-69% (D+)
90-93% (A-)	77-79% (C+)	60-64% (D)
87-89% (B+)	73-76 % (C)	55-59% (D-)
83-86% (B)	70-72% (C-)	Below 55% (F)

Grading Breakdown

- 80% - Assignments, tests, bell work, and papers
- 10% - Participation
- 10% - Attendance

Policies and Procedures

- Absences: Attendance is crucial and is part of your grade. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. I am happy to help you with your work, but **YOU ARE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE!** For record keeping purposes, all work will be marked as a zero until it is made up. I prefer that you use the class website to find your missing work. However, I am also willing to help you before or after school.
- Tardies: You must be seated and prepared when the bell rings to be counted on time. If you are not, you will be marked tardy. If you are late, please come in quietly and sit down in your seat and get to work. We will follow the school's policy on tardies.
- Bell Work: Bell work cannot be made up. However, a few will be dropped each term.

- Late Work and Make Up Work: Late work is work that could have been completed on time but was not. It will be docked for each day it is late. In most cases, late work will not be accepted more than a week late. Makeup work is work from an **excused** absence. It will not be docked points as long as it is received in a timely way.
- Food and Drink: Food and drink (except for water) are not allowed in the classroom except on special days.
- Hall Passes: You will receive 3 hall passes each term. If you use a hall pass, please write your name on the form corresponding to your period. Hall passes not used can count for extra credit, but you must let me know.
- Participation: Positive participation is mandatory and is also part of your term grade.
- Preparation: It is very important that you are prepared each day. Being prepared means having a pen and a piece of paper EVERYDAY. Points will be lost if not prepared.

Required Supplies

- Notebook: You must have a notebook that will stay in the classroom. Please bring it the second day of class.
- Binder: Please organize your school life with a binder. It will make your job and mine much easier.
- Paper: You will need to have a few pieces of paper each day. Please put paper in your binder.
- Pen: All handwritten work should be done in black or blue ink. Please bring one with you every day.
- Reading book: A reading book is required every day as you will need to read when you finish your work.
- Computer: All lengthy papers and essays will need to be typed. Some will be typed in class; some will be done outside of class. The school has labs available for your use.

Media Use

- Video clips: I like to use video clips and other lengthier media to help illustrate certain points. I only use videos for relevant educational purposes, and all of the videos I show are edited for content. The clips shown will be rated appropriately (G or PG and their edited/TV equivalents). If you have any concerns, please let me know. By signing this form, you are giving your permission for me to show G and PG (and edited equivalents) movies and clips.
- Classroom Library: I have books that students may check out and borrow from me. Although I try my best to ensure high quality in each of the books in my library, I have not personally read each book and cannot be responsible for its content. Students are also encouraged to use the school library. To check out a book, come and speak with me (this includes textbooks). If you don't return it, you will be fined the cost of the book.

Curriculum

- I follow the state curriculum and standards as outlined on the UEN website.
- Book Reports: To become a better reader, you must read! You will need to read one complete book each semester of your own choosing (at least 500 pages). There will also be a required book report. More information will be handed out in class.
- Class Novels: We will be reading a variety of novels and plays as a class this year. Some of the readings may include Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter*, F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, Michael Shaara's *Killer Angels*, Reginald Rose's *Twelve Angry Men*, and Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. This is a sampling; readings may be added to or taken away from as time and circumstances allow. Most of the course reading will be assigned for completion outside class with discussion and deeper analysis conducted in class or online with teacher guidance.
- Writing Assignments: Expect to write every day. Each term we will do at least one major writing assignment as well as several smaller writing assignments. We will be writing narratives, literary analyses, and research papers.
- Oral Reports: There will be frequent oral reports and presentations.

Website, Office Hours, Communication

- **As preparation for college, it is mandatory for this class that you check your school email weekly.** I will send assignments out this way from time to time. I also will email parents occasionally.
- I have a class website (see above). I will post all the work we did each day on the website. If you are absent, go to the website to get the work you are missing. There will also be homework assignments associated with the website which I will discuss further in class.
- I am available and willing to help students before or after school. If you need to see me before or after contract hours, please schedule an appointment. Email is generally the best way to contact me.

Your First Homework Assignment!!!

Your first homework assignment this year is to take this home to your parents, have them read it, and then return this attached portion (which your parents will need to sign). You should keep the disclosure.

This needs to be brought in by Thursday, August 29th (A Day) or Friday, August 30th (B Day).

Dear Parents,

I am excited about the school year and am excited about having your child in my class. Please read through our class information with your student so you're aware of the expectations, consequences, and policies of this class. It then needs to be signed and returned with your child to class. This acknowledges that you read it and understand it.

Please feel free to contact me by email (trent.mikesell@nebo.edu) or by phone after school with any questions or concerns. Also, check the class website: mrmikesell.weebly.com. I will post important class information on this site.

Thank you!

Trent Mikesell

x _____
Student Name (PRINT)

x _____
Student Signature

x _____
Parent Name (PRINT)

x _____
Parent Signature

Comments, Questions, or Concerns
