

AP Language and Composition

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 three 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, homework, tests, papers
- 10% - Bell Work
- 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.
- Roll: I will take roll at the beginning of class. You are responsible to fix any absences.
- 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.
- 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.

- Assignments: Please write your name and class period on all assignments. Papers should be submitted online using Google Docs. Assignments not correctly submitted will receive a zero (and will need to be resubmitted).

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 core standards as outlined on the UEN website. My use of media is governed by these standards. I also follow the standards outlined for the AP Language and Composition class by Advanced Placement.
- Book Reports: You will be required to do some out-of-class reading each term or semester. This will be assessed in class.
- Class Readings: 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.

Students will read all of the following works:

- Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.
- James, Henry. *The Turn of the Screw*.
- Levitt, Steven D, and Stephen J. Dubner. *Freakonomics*
- Miller, Arthur. *The Crucible*.
- Shaara, Michael. *The Killer Angels*.
- Several short stories, essays, and other pieces.

Students will read one of the following works:

- Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*.
- Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Nickel and Dimed*.
- Kotlowitz, Alex. *There are No Children Here*.
- Krakauer, Jon. *Into the Wild*.
- Postman, Neil. *Amusing Ourselves to Death*.
- Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation*.

- Writing Assignments: Expect to write every day. Students will write a number of informal and formal essays throughout the course of the year. These essays will focus on the three essay types on the AP exam. Students will be required to **revise** nearly all essays (papers will not be accepted without this). Here is a sampling of the formal essays for the class:

- Summer reading essay
- Narrative essay
- Rhetorical precis essays
- Researched argument essay
- Researched synthesis essay
- Rhetorical analysis essay
- Satire essay

- Oral Reports: There will be frequent oral reports and presentations. **If you do not feel comfortable presenting to a class, you may consider taking another class.** Discussion and oral presentation are REQUIRED for this course.
- Exam: We will take at least three FULL practice AP exams throughout the year as well as shorter versions of the exam (including timed writes). It is expected that students will take the AP exam at the end of the year.
- AP Syllabus: For a more detailed explanation of the course curriculum, please refer to the syllabus on my website.

Website, Office Hours, Communication

- I will be sending out emails from time to time either to students or parents or both. It is important that you check these.
- 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.
- I am available and willing to help students before or after school. If you need to see me before or after school hours, please schedule an appointment. **Email is generally the best way to contact me.**