
 (Your Name)
 Ms. Nielsen
 English 9
 20 January 2010

English 9 Syllabus/Workbook
 Ms. Nielsen

Herein lay all the knowledge you need to have a great experience in English 9! Use it wisely. Answer all of the questions, fill in all blanks, and follow instructions carefully. Remember the following word and you should be in great shape:

RESPECT

Important dates:

Midterm & Parent / Teacher Conferences	W 17 February 2010
IRP1 Due	T 9 March
Spring Break	F 12 March – F 19 March
Quarter exam	M 29 March
Quarter ends	W 31 March
IRP2 Due	T 27 April 2010
Midterm & Parent / Teacher Conferences	W 28 April
Quarter exam	T 1 June
Portfolio Due / End of semester	TH 3 June 2010

Approximate grade breakdown:

Work ethic points	approximately 10%
Journal	approximately 10%
Conventions	approximately 10%
Vocabulary	approximately 5%
Worksheets/small daily assignments	approximately 25%
<u>Papers, tests, presentations, projects</u>	<u>approximately 35%</u>
Midterm and final exam	approximately 5%

Procedures

- I. If I need to get in touch with Ms. Nielsen, I should leave a voice mail message at _____ - _____ extension _____, leave a note with a secretary in the office, or **email her at inielsen@solon.k12.ia.us**. Her classroom hours are 8:00 to 4:00. Her free block (prep) is _____ hour. During seminar, Ms. Nielsen is usually supervising or conducting Reading class; however, Ms. Nielsen is sometimes available during seminar to answer any questions or provide extra help. I will

always check in advance if she will be in her room and remain flexible if her schedule changes at the last minute. If she is not in her room, and has told me she would be, I will check with the office. I will NOT sit outside her room waiting for her for more than five minutes.

II. This class is required and is a semester long, so it is worth _____ credits.

III. Need a handout? Have a question? Try our website at <http://e9spring10nielsen.wikispaces.com/>

IV. What materials do I need to bring with me every day?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

V. When the bell rings, I should . . .

VI. What kind of things will we be doing in English 9?

Keeping a writing journal
 Blogging
 Individual **Reading Projects**
 Grammar / mechanical skills
 Word Study (Vocabulary)
 Essay structure / Research
 Debate

To Kill a Mockingbird
Romeo and Juliet
The Odyssey
 Short stories and Poetry
 Note-taking / listening skills
 Literacy portfolio
 Quarter final exam

Grading scale:

	89 – 87% B+	79 – 77% C+	69 – 67% D+	59 – 0% F
100 – 95% A	86 – 83 B	76 – 73 C	66 – 63 D	
94 – 90 A-	82 – 80 B-	72 – 70 C-	62 – 60 D-	

VII. How can I earn extra credit?

I give very little extra credit, so you're much better off concentrating on the regular assignments. However, you may do extra reading projects or extra journal pages. Note that extra credit doesn't have much of an impact on your overall grade. – Ms. N

VIII. The Work Ethic grade is credit I can earn for exhibiting positive learning behaviors. These include:

IX. If I'm absent, as soon as I get back to school, I should:

- A. Look at Ms. Nielsen's school website.
- B. Turn in any work that was due. If there was an assignment due or a test scheduled that I would've known about, _____
- C. Check with _____ or _____ (find a study partner) to get any notes or handouts.
- D. Check the "out" box to see if something was handed back when I was gone.
- E. If I've missed a quiz or test, I will make it up immediately. Most tests or quizzes will be in the office, so I will go there before school, during seminar, or after school in order to take make-up tests and quizzes. Occasionally, with prior approval, I may be able to take very short quizzes during SSR/Journal time at the beginning of class. However, I will plan on making up most of my quizzes and all of my tests outside of class.
- F. I have _____ day(s) for every day missed to turn in make up work.
- G. I will remember that **I am responsible for anything I miss** and Ms. Nielsen will not chase me down to make sure that I've made something up or accept, "I was gone that day," as an excuse.
- H. Extra handouts, worksheets, or quizzes can be found clipped to the board. Get them soon. A few very old handouts may end up in the big white crate, but most are simply gone after a few days. If there are no more copies available in class, I will print them out from the website or get copies from my study partner outside of class.

For every unexcused absence, I will lose _____ work ethic points.

If I know that I'm going to be gone, I will notify Ms. Nielsen in writing as soon as possible. It may take a couple days for assignments to be compiled. I will have to complete most work in ADVANCE of leaving.

X. I will turn in every assignment by the due date, when Ms. Nielsen asks for it, or

I need to bring any paper I've typed to class already printed out. Ms. Nielsen will not let me print it out from her computer, or run to a lab to print, even if I've had computer problems outside of class because it disrupts class and this excuse is often abused. To avoid not having my paper printed out when I come to class, I should:

If an assignment is due on a day when Ms. Nielsen is gone, I will give the assignment to the guest teacher or to the office. I will not tell Ms. Nielsen, "I tried to turn that in, but you were gone, so <shrug>."

XI. If I need to leave class to use the restroom, go to my locker, or go to the office, I should:

Ms. Nielsen may refuse my request to leave class because instruction has begun or I have been out of class too much lately. I will only request to leave during the first few minutes of class or if it is an emergency. I will leave myself enough time between classes or during seminar to use the restroom or get a drink before I come to class.

Ms. Nielsen will not allow me to leave class to:

XII. Plagiarism

Any time that I use someone else's words or thoughts without permission or without citing the original source, that's plagiarism, which is intellectual theft. If I do this, I will get a failing grade on the assignment and possibly other negative consequences. If I'm not sure whether or not I'm plagiarizing something, I'll just err on the side of caution and always cite from where I got the information or not use that material at all.

I will not use sites like SparkNotes when working on my IRP or in place of a reading assignment. It is better to get a low grade or turn a paper in late than to receive the automatic F I will get if I plagiarize.

XIII. My English 9 Portfolio

At the end of the class, I will put together a collection of the written work I've done as a freshman. **I will NOT throw away anything I write this semester!** I create this portfolio because it's a great way to see what I've achieved, how hard I've worked, how I've improved; and it's a great way for Ms. Nielsen and future teachers to see these same things. For this portfolio, I'll create a Philosophy, a Mission Statement, and an Action Plan. This portfolio could also include:

XIII. My English 9 Blog

Every two weeks you will post to our class blog. You will also respond to another student's post. Most of your posts will earn completion points, but one post, chosen randomly, will be graded on Ideas, Conventions, Word Count, Elaboration, and Word Choice.

XV. Demonstrating Respect

Get in a group of no more than four people. Each member should write your group's answers to the following questions. Choose one person to report to the whole class.

1. What does respect mean to you?

2. What does respect look / sound like?

3. How do you feel when someone shows you respect?

4. How do you feel when someone *doesn't* show you respect?

XVI. Ms. Nielsen's Expectations for Behavior

Here is how I show respect in English 9 (and other classes):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

If I don't show respect by meeting one of the above expectations, I think that Ms. Nielsen should:

Here's what will happen if I don't respect my school and/or the people in it:

I expect Ms. Nielsen to:

XVI. Responsibilities

Each student will have a job that he or she will be responsible for accomplishing on a regular basis. I will need to sign up for a job and then see that it gets done, without disturbing class in any way. I will fulfill this role for a quarter, then (probably) switch to a new duty. If I'm gone one day, another member of that team will fill in for me. I may need to reciprocate when I get back. I will not argue with or demean any of the people responsible for any of these duties. Each position is subordinate to Ms. Nielsen; she has the final word.

1.	Door Keeper	<i>Do the high-five thing</i>
2.	Seating Assistant	<i>Help w/ new seating chart</i>
3.	Computer retriever (2)	<i>ONLY TWO PEOPLE! Usually, only first class of day</i>
4.	Comp. Distributor	<i>Make sure every computer is checked out; change # if someone switches</i>
5.	Guest Teacher Assistant	<i>Help the substitute; know where stuff is</i>
6.	Copier	<i>Make or retrieve copies from office; helps if you've used the copier before</i>
7.	Vocabulary Assistant	<i>Coordinate student-directed vocab.; if/when we're all really good at it</i>
8.	Vocabulary Recorder	<i>Fill out the in-class and online vocabulary record, help absentees to catch up</i>
9.	Conventioneer	<i>Fill out the in-class conventions workbook, help absent student to catch up</i>
10.	Chief Passer	<i>Pass back papers; scores are confidential; may recruit ≤ 2 helpers, if Ms. N. okays</i>
11.	Class Ambassador	<i>Welcome new students & get them up to speed</i>
12.	Photographer	<i>Take pictures of students, work, or notes on board as directed by Ms. Nielsen</i>
13.	Name Drawer	<i>If we need to select people at random</i>
14.	Hand Spotter	<i>Who had his/her hand up first? Warning: can be stressful</i>
15.	Tutor	<i>Person who excels at LA & can help others</i>
16.	Clean Up Crew Chief	<i>Make sure the room is clean & tidy before anyone can leave: must be able to motivate others</i>
17.	Technical Assistant	<i>Help Ms. N. or students w/ computer or A/V issues</i>
18.	Librarian	<i>Keep paperbacks organized</i>
19.	Recycler	<i>Put recycling out or bag up</i>
20.	Courier	<i>Take stuff places</i>
21.	Handy Person	<i>Keep our pencil sharpeners, staplers, etc. working in good order</i>
22.	Supply Chief	<i>Keep middle cupboard & drawers neat; make sure borrowed pencils are returned</i>
23.	Textbook Keeper	<i>Hand out textbooks @ beginning of unit; keep tidy; check in & out</i>
24.	Cruise Director	<i>Organize celebrations</i>
25.	Interior Decorator	<i>Put up & take down decorations; hang up posters; tall people preferred</i>
26.	Date Keeper	<i>Make sure date on agenda is correct (1st or last class of day)</i>
27.	Comp. Cart Straightener	<i>Make sure each laptop is in the right slot & plugged in; tuck in cords</i>
28.	Computer Returner (2)	<i>ONLY TWO PEOPLE; may require leaving class early or late;</i>
29.	Movie Usher	<i>Where did we leave off in the video?</i>
30.	Web Master	<i>Help me keep my website updated; computer nerd preferred</i>
31.	Recorder	<i>Write down what we've put on board or dictated; post or give to Ms. N.</i>
32.	Election Commissioner	<i>Help tally votes</i>
33.	Administrative Assistant	<i>General paper/clerical work; keep office supplies stocked & accounted for</i>