

Honors Sophomore English Class Procedures & Other Notes of Interest

Welcome to Honors Sophomore English! Since you've chosen to label yourself "Honors," I expect that you meet at least some of these criteria:

- (1) you have a love of learning, and enjoy expanding the limits of what you know in any direction possible;
- (2) in activities, assignments, etc., you routinely push yourself to do the best that you can;
- (3) you take pride in the quality of the work that you do, and often go to extra lengths to make sure it is excellent;
- (4) you write, read, and/or communicate on a level that is more advanced than the majority of the rest of the Sophomore class.

If none of these describe you, well, you may want to find one or two to adopt, fairly quickly. It is my intention in this class to push you to be excellent; if you intend to claim the title of "Honors," there's no reason to expect anything less. I'll do that through the depth and complexity of assignments I expect you to complete, the level of literature we study, and the standards I use to evaluate your work. I hope you're ready to go!

Notebooks

You will be required to keep a notebook for this class. It must be a 3-ring binder, and should have sections for:

- (1) Daily assignments:
 - (a) Language builders
 - (b) Journals
 - (c) Other assignments
- (2) Vocabulary:
 - (a) Returned vocabulary assignments
 - (b) Weekly vocabulary notes
 - (c) Returned vocabulary quizzes
- (3) Handouts
- (4) Class Notes
- (5) Graded Work

From time to time, I may either collect notebooks or (more likely) give a short notebook quiz to encourage you to stay organized and up-to-date.

Other Supplies

Be sure you always have a supply of loose-leaf paper, as well as standard blue or black ink pens. You will also need one pen of a different color (red, purple, or green) for checking and revising work.

Class Policies & Procedures

1. There will be no food allowed in the room during class time. It makes a mess (eventually) and distracts you and those around you from what's going on in class (invariably). Any food being eaten during class time may be collected without warning, and will not be returned. Ever.

2. Drinks, however, are permitted, as long as they are obtained before class begins. The pass will not be used for visiting snack machines. Any food or drink brought into the room after class begins will be collected and destroyed.

3. You will have an assigned seat, and should be in it by the time the tardy bell sounds. Each day, there will be some activity on the screen which is to be completed and kept in the Daily Assignments section of your notebook. When the bell sounds, you should already be working on the activity, and continue working until time is called.

4. Do not talk when announcements are made over the intercom.

5. When the bell sounds at the end of class, it is not a signal for you to jump up and run to the door. I will dismiss class when all of our business has been conducted and the room is neat and orderly.

Assignments and Grades

This year, I will be assigning variable point values to assignments. A small daily assignment might be worth 20 points, for example; a test, 100 points, a major essay, 200 points, etc. In theory, by keeping copies of your graded work, you should be able to get a pretty good idea of your grade, by adding up the points you've earned, and dividing by the total points you *could have* earned.

Many assignments (especially essays and other written work) will be graded according to the criteria on the Honors Sophomore English Grading Standards handout. Be sure you keep that criteria in mind when you're working on these assignments.

I will often encourage you to talk to each other to help your comprehension and gain assistance with assignments. Remember that discussion is not the same as copying! When you turn in a final assignment, your responses should be your own. ***Papers that are identical—or so close to being identical as to leave little doubt that one was derived from the other—will both receive a zero.***

All written assignments should be headed as follows:

Your last name, First name
Honors English, period
Ferrell
Date

(Put this information in the right-hand corner of the paper, as above.) Other specific instructions will be given according to the nature of each assignment.

I am available for help during lunch, and every day after school until at least 3:30. I'm often busy with a hundred other things, though, so if you need special help, it's usually a good idea to set up an appointment with me.

Please feel free to email me at ferrell@ferrellweb.com for help on assignments as well. My computer's always on, and I'm usually checking email every once and a while, even if I'm not at my desk. If you're brave, and need more immediate help, you can chat on the MUSH (if I'm at my desk) by clicking the link at <http://www.ferrellweb.com> or going directly to <http://btb.ath.cx/btb/>.