

Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) Syllabus

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NOTE: ERWC is a required course for graduation. If you do not receive a passing grade (D- or better), you will NOT graduate. It is your responsibility to be constantly aware of your grade via Student/Parent connect ("Q"). If you notice any discrepancy with your grade, you must contact me immediately. Please note the late-work policy will be strictly enforced.

Course Description: Language arts focuses on the ability to read, write, speak, and listen effectively. These are necessary skills in every aspect of life and need to be well developed for future success in college and/or a career. ERWC focuses on expository reading and writing in preparation for entering college or a career. The Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) is a full-year, college preparatory English course for high school seniors. The ERWC aligns with the Common Core State Standards, addresses critical reading and writing problems identified by the CSU English Placement Test Committee, and prepares students to meet the expectations of college faculty and employers.

Class Texts: ERWC Reader (must be in class every day); *Into the Wild*; *Brave New World*

Required Materials – Everyday students must be prepared and bring the following items to class:

- Assigned texts (reader or novel)
- Writing instruments (2 blue or black pens, pencils, one red pen, multi-colored highlighters)
- Post-it notes, medium & small
- College-rule Notebook Paper
- 1.5-2" three-ring binder for Language Arts
- 6 tabbed dividers
- Binder dividers: Packets, Classwork, Writing, Inquiry, Senior Project, Reference
- Inquiry Materials

Grading: Grading will be based on class work and homework (including reading, writing, speaking, and listening assignments; class discussions; notes and notebooks; participation in group work) and assessments (including essays, projects, speeches, tests, quizzes, and portfolios). Students should plan to present their work often and participate daily as a part of their grade.

Distribution of grades:

Semester 1: Assessments = 45%, Homework/Classwork = 35%, Packets/Quizzes = 20%

Semester 2: Assessments = 35%, Homework/Classwork = 30%, Senior Project 20%, Packets/Quizzes = 15%

Grading Scale (minimum percentage needed)

A+ 99.0 A 93.0 A- 90.0 B+ 88.0 B 83.0 B- 80.0 C+ 78.0 C 73.0 C- 70.0 D+ 68.0 D 63.0 D- 60.0 F 0.0

Attendance/Make-Up/Tardy Policy: Consistent school attendance is essential to academic success. When you are absent or tardy, you do not only miss assignments, but valuable information, in-class activities, and discussions. Missing out on this information and these experiences will greatly hinder you from understanding the material studied. Thus, simply making up the assignments is not the same as being present in class.

- It is the student's responsibility to obtain make-up work due to an **excused** absence and discuss or clarify the assignment with the teacher—absences must be excused through the attendance office.
- Make-up work will only be given if an absence is excused and must be turned in **the following class period** for credit. The date of the absences must be listed at the top of the assignment.
- If the student misses a test, quiz, or presentation, he or she must make arrangements with the teacher to come in before or after school to make up the test. **If the assignment has not been completed in a week's time, the student will receive a 0.**
- As school policy states, students who arrive late to class will receive a detention.

Homework Policy: All homework is due at **the beginning of class** on the specified due date. Major papers, projects, or speeches are never given without several days to several weeks' notice. Therefore, last minute printer/computer problems are not excused. I cannot use my printer to print assignments for students. **NO late assignments will be accepted.**

Standards of Classroom Conduct:

- Preparedness: Students must be in their assigned seats before the bell rings or they will be considered tardy. They must come to class on time, with the required materials, and be quiet and ready to learn when the bell rings.
- Behavior: Listen attentively and refrain from talking when the teacher or another student is speaking. Participate in an appropriate and respectful manner each day. Use language that is respectful and appropriate to the school setting. Refrain from chewing gum, using electronics without explicit permission, or applying makeup in the classroom. Eating in class is only permitted when the food does not cause distraction and it is not a habit.
- Respect: Show consideration, courtesy, and acknowledgement to other students and to the teacher. Respect the rights, feelings, and property of others.

- **Academic Honesty:** All assignments, quizzes, essays, and exams must be done on your own. Academic dishonesty includes not only cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism, but also includes helping other students commit acts of academic dishonesty by allowing them to obtain copies of your work. In short, all submitted work must be your own. Any student caught cheating, plagiarizing, or aiding another student in cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero for that assignment, test, essay, or quiz and a parent phone call. Repeated academic dishonesty will result in discipline from the school's administration.

Discipline: The school's policy for discipline will be enforced. The first time a student breaks a rule, they will be given a warning. They will then be given a detention. If the student continues to break the rules, the next step will be to write a referral to the Assistant Principal. At this time, the parent or guardian will be contacted and the Assistant Principal will decide the appropriate disciplinary action for the student.

Technology: The use of technology will be important in this course. Students will utilize a website called turnitin.com which checks work for plagiarism and provides feedback. Students will be given a Class ID code to use to register for the course as well as a password. Many assignments must be turned in typed, in MLA format and some presentations will require the use of Microsoft PowerPoint or other presentation programs. If you do not have access to a computer, please plan in advance to make use of the school's computer labs. I cannot print for students from my computer and will not accept hand-written or emailed versions when a typed assignment is required.

Record your information for turnitin.com here: Class ID= _____ Password= _____

Cell-Phones: No cell phones are allowed without the explicit permission of the teacher; misuse will result in the phone being collected by security and returned directly to your parent/guardian.

Permission to watch films: As a supplement to the curriculum, we may view *Into the Wild* (R-for language and some nudity) and *Bully* (PG-13), along with other short video texts (e.g. TED Talks). Please complete the survey to give or deny permission.

Teacher Assistance: My goal is to help my students succeed in Language Arts; thus, should you require additional assistance with an assignment beyond what I can provide during class time or have any concerns about the course, please make an appointment with me to meet before or after school. Parents or guardians may contact me via email at jsteenhard@cnusd.k12.ca.us and I will return emails as soon as possible. To be successful, please check your current grade often by using Q, our school's online gradebook system. Parents and students can access Q through the link on the school website. If you do not know your username and password, please see the school librarian (you must bring your ID). Parents/Guardians can contact their student's counseling office for logon information.

Keep the course syllabus for your reference.

Student and Parent/Guardian, please complete the surveys at the following links. These will be graded for completion.

Student Survey: <http://goo.gl/forms/zSfyXhW6ocfTBqD3>

Parent/Guardian Survey: <http://goo.gl/forms/FtJsvVmUYqYdkWae2>