

Westford Academy Mission Statement: *Westford Academy, in collaboration with home and community, provides a safe environment where high expectations advance academic excellence. We are committed to promoting integrity and critical thinking, while fostering tolerance and life-long learning in an ever-changing global society.*

Kathryn Flinner

English II

kflinner@westfordk12.us

Course Description: 11th grade English explores American culture, identity, and experience using literature, especially the mythology of America. This class practices active reading skills and builds on basic expository writing skills. It also is designed to develop independent thinking, to practice organizing strategies, and to learn a sense of ownership for your work.

Why is writing so important? Being able to write shows you are able to think. And thinking is the real goal behind education.

To get you to think, we will practice and practice some more. We will study a variety of strategies for both reading and writing and will practice them. We will examine carefully and explore texts for meanings. We will try to understand and appreciate writing (and thinking) (and reading) as a process, as a set of stages on the way toward a polished product, as a journey toward insight. If thinking is continually refined, so is writing. And constant thinking makes you a thoughtful (thought-full) person. So, let's get started!

Website: Please visit my website: <http://thought-full.weebly.com>. While it's still a work-in-progress (like you, I'm still learning!), I post overviews of each major work or unit, some of our assignments, handouts, and review helps. I've also posted some thoughts on what being a student is about (also see paragraph above re: thinking).

Expectations: Expectations are mutual. This signed sheet is a social contract between us. I will do my best to be honest, appropriate, and prepared for you. I expect that you will let good judgment be your guide in making decisions, both personal and academic choices. Among those choices are:

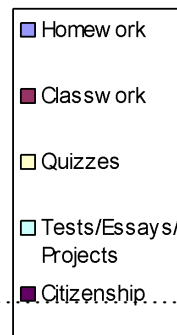
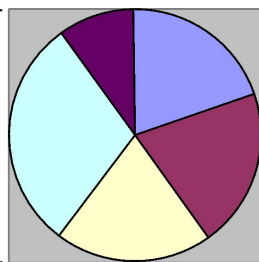
Academic Dishonesty: This is one of the most serious offenses a student can commit. All forms of unacceptable behavior, including plagiarizing, fabricating, or facilitating dishonesty (even unauthorized collaboration) will result in a failing grade. You will also submit your papers through TurnItIn.com. This can help you catch yourself if you have unintentionally plagiarized. Unintentional plagiarism is not an excuse.

Participation and Decorum: Attendance and participation are required, and as such are part of your grade for the course. A few reminders about proper decorum and behavior: please thoughtfully consider your behavior in light of its impact on others (both your peers and your instructor). Remember your manners. Do not be disruptive to the people around you. School policies of course apply in the classroom; the most difficult to remember are: no food or drink (except water), no hats or hoods, no cell phones.

Purpose of Assignments: Every assignment has a distinct purpose. Broadly, the categories are: preparation for the next day's class; practice (or extension) of a skill learned in class; application of a concept or idea; and continuation or completion of something begun in class. Please ask if you are unclear about how an assignment fits our purposes and processes of the course.

Grading:

Classwork + Homework: 20% + 20% ...



(This is any work, either in class or out of class, as well as participation in class (like class discussions). These **formative** assessments ARE graded. You can expect up to ____ assignments per quarter.)

Essays / Projects / Tests: 30%
(assessments.)

Quizzes:

20%.....

(These might be reading or other checks for understanding, + Vocab quizzes.)

Citizenship:

10%

(This encompasses participation, attitude, and behavior.)

(These are **summative**

Classwork, homework, and tests and essays account for the bulk of your grade in this course. This category includes, but is not limited to, in-class writing, response papers, papers written outside of class, active participation in class. Quizzes are most likely to be vocabulary work, however you should be prepared for reading quizzes on occasion. I expect you to keep all handouts and anything you write for this class in a notebook through the end of the year.

Required Texts: All assigned texts must be returned by the end of the school year or paid for.

Summer Text: Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Our Town by Thornton Wilder

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

as well as the Prentice Hall Anthology

Required Materials:

In this class you will be expected to take notes as well as accumulate and manage handouts. However, a positive attitude is central to learning. Besides your open mind you will need to bring the following to class every day:

A notebook for class notes

A binder in which to organize notes and handouts

A pen or pencil (not purple)

The text we are using

Additional Policies:

School-wide policies are in effect in my classroom. As a reminder, this includes all electronics off your desk, no hats, and _____ . However, some policies are part of the contract between us as a smaller learning community. Some of these are:

Homework Policy: Homework is due at the time I collect it. If you turn it in after I have collected it, at the end of the same day or even at the end of the same period, it is late. **Late work will earn an automatic 55%. Beyond one day late, that grade is a zero.**

Make-up / Late Work Policy: Late work is docked points. Major projects or essays are dropped a full 10 points for each day late. **If work must be made up due to an excused absence, please make arrangements with me on your first day back to class. All late work must be HANDED directly to a teacher.**

Technology Policy: Cell phones, iPods and other technology during class is allowed by permission when appropriate. **Anyone taking pictures of ANYONE ELSE without their consent** will have their phone confiscated and be reported to the dean. **Any phones out during tests/quizzes will receive a 0** and the incident will be reported to the dean. **Students leaving the room during tests/exams** will be asked to leave their cell phone with me.

Extra Help Policy: If you are struggling in the class, it is crucial to make an appointment for extra help. Do not wait until progress reports! Come see me. I am available for extra help on _____. The best way to reach me is by e-mail.

Seating: For 1st quarter you may choose where you sit. **This is a privilege, not a right. With this privilege comes the responsibility of behaving properly.** If you cannot behave, I will change your seat for you. You will be warned once verbally before this happens. I may choose where you sit.

And finally, **Ask Questions:** The best way for me to help you succeed this year is if you ask questions before, during, and after class. Most likely, someone else in the class has the same question as you!

Your Personal Goals:

I have read and agree to the above expectations and procedures.

Student Signature / Date

Parent/Guardian Signature / Date