

# Would you like to be in Sophomore Honors English?

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Requirements-

GPA

Excellence in grammar

Portfolio

Writing Center Visits

Book Talks

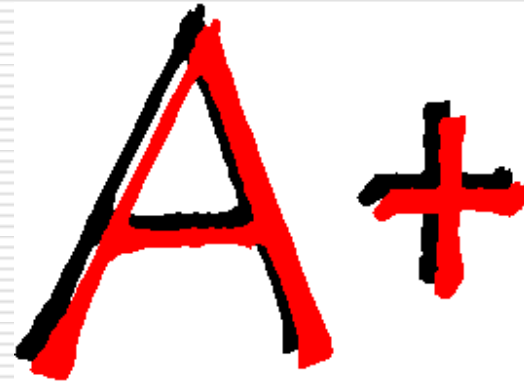
Timed Essay

# GPA

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- 90% average in English by the end of the third marking period

Keep in mind that your expository writing grades weigh heavily in your marking period grade.



# Excellence in grammar

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- You must achieve a 90 % or above on tests covering parts of speech, parts of the sentence ,and phrases.
  - You will have four opportunities each marking period to do this
  - Test #1-No instruction
  - Test #2 -Class instruction
  - Test #3-Small group instruction
  - Individual Learning Packet
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# Portfolio

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- ❑ Study guide on King Oedipus
- ❑ 3 Essays assigned to the entire class revised to meet the standard of the English II Honors writing rubric
- ❑ 2 additional essays also written to the standard of the English II Honors rubric-topics should be developed with your teacher and must include literary criticism
- ❑ One essay written in reaction to Book Talks

There are seven pieces of work to be completed by the end of the third marking period. We expect you to complete one class essay and one additional piece each marking period. If you do not complete work in a timely fashion, your parents will be notified and you will be dropped from the list of candidates. Let's take a closer look at the components of the portfolio.

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# Class Essays

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- These essays may comprise 30% of your marking period grade.

Your portfolio version will be judged on the English II Honors rubric. There are many ways that we will help you to meet the challenge of writing to this standard.

1. One-Individual work with your teacher in class
  2. Two-Exercises prepared in conjunction with Mr. Farley (Sophomore Honors Teacher)
  3. Three- Writing Center assistance
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# This is the CP ckecklist.

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## **Freshman English Composition Checklist**

- 15 pts. -Read the last sentence in the first paragraph. Does it contain the title, author, genre, and the three points that you plan to discuss? Are the points in the sequence that you plan to discuss them? Are they parallel?
  - 10 pts. -Read the opening paragraph. Does it open with a general statement? Is that statement followed by facts and/or examples to illustrate it? Do you need a transition? You should not refer to the text before the thesis.
  - 15 pts. -Do you have a quotation in each paragraph of the body? Does a page number follow each quotation? Make sure that you have not opened or closed a paragraph with a quotation. Reread the sections of the paper surrounding each quotation. Did you set up, deliver, and explain each one?
  - 10 pts. -Does each paragraph of the body begin and end on a thesis point and not a plot detail? 10 pts. -Have you stayed in present tense?
  - 10 pts. -Have you stayed in third person?
  - 10 pts. -Does your conclusion begin by restating the thesis? Does it continue by summarizing the body? Does it end by coming full circle back to the general statement?
  - 15 pts. -Have you read your paper? This will work better if you put it away for a day first. Is it mechanically correct? Does it make sense? Have you proven your thesis points? Have you avoided the errors on the No Excuses list?
  - 5 pts. -Is the format correct? Is your paper double-spaced in a standard 12-point font? Have you used the correct heading- your name, your teacher's name, the period your class meets, and the date placed in the upper right hand corner of page one?
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The English II Honors Rubric requires you to take your writing to a more sophisticated level.

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## **Organization**

In terms of organization you must be able to handle multiple quotations gracefully and rephrase thesis statements and thesis points without losing meaning.

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# Grammar/Mechanics

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- In terms of grammar and mechanics you must use correct sentence structure and punctuation. You must use action verbs in active voice. You must pay attention to details like the correct use of prepositions.
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# Content

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- The content of your paper will be of great importance particularly in the following areas: elaboration of details, logical conclusions, accurate information, central focus, good transitions, variety of sentence structure, and range of vocabulary.
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# Additional Essay Choices

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*You must choose two additional topics to write about during the year.* You must meet with your English teacher to develop a topic based on the reading done in class. You must develop a thesis that can be supported with literary criticism in print. Please attach a copy of the criticism with your paper. Your teacher may ask you to highlight areas that you use or make marginal notes. These papers must meet the standard of the English II Honors rubric.

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# Writing Center Visits

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- *You must visit the writing center to work on an essay at least once each marking period.* Please ask the writing center instructor to sign your work. Show that to your English teacher who will record the visit in your portfolio. We hope that you will discover the merits of the writing center and return for help as needed.
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# Book Talks

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- During the third marking period Mr. Smith, supervisor of the English department, will be meeting with prospective honors candidates for a series of book talks. Book choices and meeting dates will be made available at the beginning of the third marking period. You will have to read one additional title, attend several “group book talk” sessions, and produce a paper that will be the final essay for your portfolio.
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# There is one more step in the process of entering English II Honors

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- During the third marking period all candidates will be asked to report after school to write a timed essay. The purpose of this is to allow you the opportunity to display your development as a writer.
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# Honors Credit

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- Students who complete all the requirements to enter English II Honors at the prescribed times will be awarded 5 additional points to be added to their English I average at the conclusion of the school year. It is important to note that you must meet each marking period deadline throughout the year to qualify for the extra points.
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# Let's recap!

## To get into English II Honors you must-

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- Maintain a 90 % average.
  - Score 90% on three grammar units.
  - Submit a 7 piece portfolio.
  - Visit the writing center.
  - Write a timed essay.
  - Read one extra book and attend Mr. Smith's book talks.
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# To help you to enter English II Honors, your teachers will-

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- ❑ Work with you individually on your portfolio essays,
- ❑ Make available to you every lunch period of every day extra help in writing through the writing center.

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