**Mr. McCain’s English 9 Syllabus**

**2015-2016 School Year**

**Contact Information:**

**School Office Phone**: 313-382-3640

**Conference Hour:** 4th hour (11:00 PM-12:03 PM) and only by appointment.

**After School** on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 3:05 PM-4:00 PM by appointment only.

**Email:** booker.mccain@leonagroup.com

**Class Website:** Mccainela.Weebly.com

**Course Description:**

9th grade English Language Arts will consist of 8 units:

Unit 1: Launching the Writers Notebook Unit 5: Basics of Argumentation

Unit 2: Independent Reading Unit 6: Informational Reading

Unit 3: Narrative Reading Unit 7: Informational Essay

Unit 4: Literary Essay Unit 8: Writing the Argument

In this course students will work diligently to expand their reading comprehension, critical thinking skills, writing proficiency, creativity, and appreciation for the English Language Arts.

We will cover a variety of authors that include different genres, such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry, memoir, essay, and short story. Comprehension and critical thinking will be increased through analyzing text, independent reading, whole class reading, and group discussions. Writing proficiency will be increased through the practice of writing in different genres: narrative, argumentative, and informative. Their proficiency will also be increased through the critical use of their Writers Notebook, peer editing, group discussion, teacher conferencing, and the review of critical grammar rules.

My mission is to help students grow as readers and writers, to encourage them to always think critically, and to understand the importance of these skills as a key component to their future success.

**Classroom Supplies needed EVERYDAY**

-A notebook used only for this class

-A folder with pockets for loose-leaf paper

-A pencil or a pen (**Blue and Black ink only. I will not accept work in any other color**.)

**Pre-Post Test**

Before each unit, you will be given a pretest to assess what you may or may not know. After each unit, there will be a post test in addition to any unit test, projects, papers, etc... This will show what you have learned, and how you have grown.

**ABT Grading Scale**

A+ 97.5%-100% C 72.5%-77%

A 92.5%-97% C- 69.5%-72%

A- 89.5%-92% D+ 67.5%-69%

B+ 87.5%-89% D 62.5%-67%

B 82.5%-87% D- 59.7%-62%

B- 79.5%-82% F 59%-0

C+ 77.5%-79%

**In addition to the grading scale, there is a specific break down of how you will be graded:**

**50% Summative Assessment (test, projects, essays, etc…)**

**20% Quizzes**

**20% Classwork / Homework**

**10% attendance/ participation**

**Please note that 10% of your grade is based solely on attendance and participation. This means that it is highly important that you be here in class and that you participate in classroom discussions, group work, as well as independent work.**

**PROCEDURE FOR ENTERING AND LEAVING THE CLASSROOM**

As soon as you enter my classroom you are expected to obtain your notebook from the designated drawer and have a seat. When the bell rings you should either be seated or headed towards your seat. Walking around aimlessly, standing by a friends desk, sitting on the heater, or anything other than being in your seat will result in a warning. I will also time the class as soon as the bell rings. However long it takes the class to settle down, will be the amount of time I hold you after the dismissal bell. The bell doesn’t dismiss you. I do.

Before the dismissal bell, no one is allowed to line up at the door. That will only result in the class staying after longer. All notebooks and assignments should be turn in neatly.

**RULES FOR BATHROOM PASSESS/PASSESS**

You are not allowed to leave for the bathroom during the first 10 minutes of class, or the last 10 minutes. Also, you are not allowed to leave during active instruction. You must sign the classroom bathroom sheet before you leave. Each student is allowed 2 bathroom passes a week. Once those bathroom passes are up, you may not leave unless under extreme circumstances.

You WILL NOT receive permission to go to any other classroom while you are in mine. If you have business to take care of with another instructor, see them on your own time. If you forget something personal in another class, I will contact the instructor and ask them to hold on to your item.

**HOMEWORK POLICIES**

**Homework: Expect to receive homework assignments at least twice a week.**

**MISSING WORK:** If you are absent, it is your responsibility to meet with me before school, during my prep hour, or after school to see what you are missing and discuss how you can make it up. Every moment in this class is precious, and I will not spend time searching for what you missed, telling you your grade, or putting together a packet of work. Refer to the missing work notebook first, and then set a time with me to meet.

**MISSING WORK NOTEBOOK:** Each class will have a missing work notebook located next to the IN/OUT work trays. Each day, a student will have the responsibility of recording what took place in class. They must record the date, the agenda, let me review it, and then place it back next to the trays. The notebook must never leave the classroom. If a student was absent that particular day, it will be their responsibility to go over to the notebook and copy down what they missed. As mentioned earlier, set a time with me to come collect anything you may need to catch up with the rest of the class

**LATE WORK:** I will accept late homework assignments with a 20% reduction each day that it is late.

**Unsure about an Assignment:** When it comes to classwork or homework, if you find yourself unsure about what to do in class, ask three other students before you come to me for understanding. Take advantage of the help your fellow classmates may be able to offer you. I should be your last resort.

**CELLPHONES**

I realize that the great majority of students in here carry cellphones, and you are constantly inching to use them all the time, but in this classroom you are only permitted to use them during specific times of the day: Red Zone time and Green Zone time.

**RED ZONE (No cellphones**): During a red zone, which will be indicated with a red marker on the chalk board, cellphones should not be seen or heard. During this time, typically we will be in the middle of instruction, or introduction think and do’s. Your FULL attention should be on me. If I see or hear your cell phone, I will warn you only once to put it away. I will take it away until the end of the class period if I see or hear it again during a red zone. If you refuse to give me your cellphone you will automatically receive a referral. I will only ask you once.

**GREEN ZONE (cellphones allowed):** During a green zone, which will also be indicated on the chalk board, students are allowed to use their phones as long as no sound is heard. If you are abusing this privilege, such as spending your independent work time to watch videos, or spend the entire time trolling Instagram or Facebook, you will be warned once to stop. The second warning will result in me taking your phone away until the end of the class period. Also, you will never be allowed to charge your phone in my class during school hours. Don’t even think about asking. Be responsible and take care of that at home. If I catch you charging it I will take it until the end of the hour without a warning. Using cellphones in my class is a privilege. It is not even remotely a right.

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

**Be Respectful of The Teacher and One Another:** You all want to be shown respect and treated like young adults. That can only happen if we remember to be respectful to one another. This is a no disrespect zone. It will not be tolerated. Do not speak when the teacher is giving instruction, raise hands if you have questions, and treat your classmates with the same dignity and respect that you would want them to treat you with.

**Be Responsible:** I will not treat you all like children. Once again, it is YOUR responsibility to get the missing work, to remember to turn in classwork/homework/projects/essays/on time, and to ask questions to seek greater understanding. Most importantly, remember to bring your materials. I do not give out pens, but I will let you borrow a pencils in-exchange for your cellphone and only your cellphone until the end of the hour. You may purchase a notebook for 50 cents.

**Be Brave:** Step out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself this year. Ask questions, put forth effort, and don’t give up when you come across something difficult. Being brave is the ONLY way you will be successful in this life, no matter what you decide to do with it.

**IMPORTANT:**

-- Eating and drinking is permitted in the classroom with discretion. This is another privilege, not a right. Don’t abuse it. If you eat, make sure you clean your area. If any evidence of food is left behind on my floor or desk, such as a pop bottle, bag of chips, or food particles, that particular class will lose its food privileges for a full week. Once you are done eating, ask for permission to go throw away your trash. It’s that simple.

**Plagiarism or Copying:** Thanks to the amazing capabilities of the internet, it is quite easy to discover if you plagiarized someone else’s paper. Plagiarizing or copying someone else’s essay, classwork, homework, etc… will result in an automatic 0 and possibly a call home. Laziness is the worst excuse. If you tried to plagiarize work in college or at a university, most institutions would expel you.

**Signed Proof of Understanding**

I have read all parts of Mr. McCain’s syllabus. I understand all the information that is contained within the syllabus. I know that all rules and regulations stated in the Academy of Business & Technology School Handbook are also practiced in this class. I will abide by all rules and agree to accept the consequences should I choose not to do so.

Print Name/ Class Hour

Student Signature/ Date

Parent/Guardian Signature / Date

Parent/ Guardian Print Name

Parent/ Guardian Address

Parent/ Guardian best number to be reached.

 **Please fill out this page, sign and return by Monday, September 14, 2014.**

 **This will count as a grade. No not forget and do not loose. Worth 10 points.**