

MR. YOUNG'S EXTREMELY ENLIGHTENING ENGLISH CLASS

Your Guide to Excellence in English

September 2002

Course Requirements:

•Reading:

Each quarter, we will read a number of works from the reading list and various supplementary materials. Generally we will read as much as possible during class time, although you will often be required to review or reread certain selections as homework, particularly when reviewing for a test. Students should come prepared to discuss and be questioned about the works being read, and class participation will constitute a portion of their grade.

•Composition:

Students will write and keep notes in their journals or notebooks frequently, usually on a topic assigned by yours truly. Journal writing is to be regarded primarily as a creative, imaginative exercise, with the exception of notes, which are mandatory. Expository writing (essays) will progress in complexity as follows:

7th grade: We will begin by creating clear, forceful descriptive statements; advance to the paragraph (the formal eleven-sentence paragraph, which builds upon the eight-sentence paragraph taught in sixth grade); and culminate in at least one analytical five-paragraph essay.

8th grade: Beginning with an assumed mastery of paragraph structure, we will work on crafting five-paragraph essays. At least one essay will be completed each quarter, with various shorter written assignments to be completed periodically. Tests will also stress competence in short-answer essay questions



•Grammar:

I will instruct students in grammar, syntax, and usage working primarily through current reading and writing projects, but also with the *Glencoe Language Arts Workbook*, in which homework will be assigned. You will learn proper editing techniques and how to detect grammatical errors in different types of writing, such as newspaper and magazine articles. Homework and quizzes will be based on classroom instruction. It is therefore essential that everyone miss as few days as possible.

•Vocabulary:

When Polonius asks Hamlet what he is reading, the prince replies: "Words." As every book is full of words, every page we read will grant opportunities to build a copious vocabulary. Several of the class readings contain vocabulary exercises or opportunities for word study. Most of the instruction will proceed from *Vocabulary Energizers*, an SAT-prep level text.

Middle School Writing Lab

In order that every student gain the best possible individual assistance, and to ensure that all students are graded on work completed under identical conditions, only those essays written in a classroom writing lab will receive a grade.

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•Listening:

We will frequently listen to recordings of various literary works, and students will often be called upon to read aloud from their books. They must, therefore, develop the ability to listen carefully and critically, and they will be tested on their listening comprehension.

•Presentation:

Few things build self-confidence like speaking in front of a group. Students will develop basic speaking skills, such as emphasis and voice modulation, and be encouraged to draw on their dramatic abilities as well. Oral reports and Orations will call on these skills, as will performing Shakespearean drama.

7th grade: You may also opt to perform during the Renaissance Fair.

8th grade: You'll need those presentation skills for your Coming to America project.

I am available for **TUTORING** every weekday, Monday – Thursday and by appointment, from 2:30 – 3:30 pm.

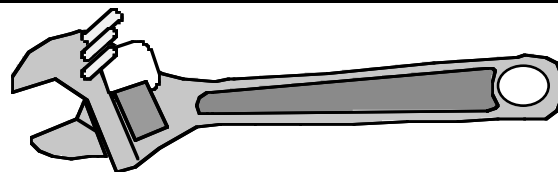
Get Involved: Join a Club!

Mr. Y advises the following clubs:

- *Sci-Fi Forum*
- *Socratic Society*
- *Middle Voice Website*
- *Parent/Student Book Club*



Mr. Y also coaches the *Parker Sailing Team*, *US Opera Club*, and *US Mystery Club*



OK, So how does it work? How do I earn an A?



Be on time with your best effort:

Do the math: one day late = 50% credit; two days late = 0% (the first is an F, but still *much* better than a ZERO).



Read instructions carefully:

How lame will you feel if you don't do what is actually assigned? This applies to homework, tests, and life.



Review regularly:

All excellence comes with practice. Make some flashcards, quiz yourself daily, and come prepared to rock at review. Cramming is worse than useless.



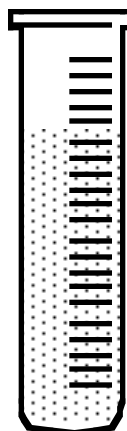
Speak your mind:

A thoughtful word speaks well of you.



Take pride in presentation:

Content is king, but neatness gets noticed. Illegible work must be redone.



Grading Scale:

Homework	25%
Tests/Quizzes	35%
Composition	40%

For best results, give every assignment 110%