



8th Grade English Syllabus – Rio Seco School



Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year!

INSTRUCTOR: Shannon Vargas

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CLASSROOM PHONE #: 619-956-5575

REMIND APP: @ELA8RSJH

Teacher Website & Info:

Hello, my name is Shannon Vargas and I am the 8th grade English teacher at Rio Seco School. I look forward to a productive year. Please visit my website to learn more about my expectations:

<https://sites.google.com/ssd4kids.net/shannonvargas>.

Materials Needed

- Two 3 ring binders, approximately 1 inch in size
-1 for handouts and assignments, 1 for writing portfolio to keep at school
- Notebook paper, pencils, erasers, highlighter
- Fully Charged iPad (and charger) - We use them every day!

Course Overview

We will focus on the 3 main text types of writing and learn how to write in MLA (Modern Language Association) format. Students will write 3-4 essays throughout the school year. Most of this will take place in class so I can conference with the students about their progress. Additionally, we will explore a variety of video clips, fiction and non-fiction texts while focusing on critical thinking to help improve listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will participate in a variety of assignments **via Google Classroom, i-Ready, Achieve 3000, Scope Scholastic, and class handouts**. Some of the video clips we watch **may contain inappropriate language, racial slurs, or crude scenes and may** evoke emotions throughout the learning. The language arts units/subjects we will use this year:

WRITING*

1. Text Type Writing – Informational, Argumentative, and Narrative Essays
2. Career & College Research
3. Career Informational Essay in MLA Format w/ works cited
4. Resume Writing
5. Various forms of Poetry

*Students must have a printed, hard copy of all writing assignments to turn-in on the assigned due date.

NOVELS

- Woods Runner
- The Giver

SHORT STORIES

- Diary of Anne Frank Play
- Martin Luther King
- Harriet Tubman
- Frederick Douglass
- Cesar Chavez

READING TOPICS (subject to change)

- Poetry
- Careers
- The Holocaust, WW2, Genocide
- The Revolutionary War
- Black History Month
- Carter G. Woodson
- Civil Rights
- US History (Mr. Conway and I coordinate)

Assignments will be found in Google Classroom, grades will be posted in PowerSchool, and student communications will be in the Remind app as well as Google classroom. I will also periodically email parents with updates. Please refer to the Rio Seco website or my website for detailed information about the district dress-code and handbook.

PowerSchool Grading



PowerSchool App – RS School Code: XSHS

- If you ever have any concerns regarding grades or assignments, let me know as soon as possible.
- PowerSchool is where grades will be posted for assignments. It will have the most up to date information for graded work. You can view your child's grade via Powerschool on their iPad.
- There is also an app you can download on your phone.
- **The Rio Seco School code for the PowerSchool app is XSHS.**

Remind App



TEXT#: 81010

Remind Code: @ELA8RSJH

- The Remind App is a text messaging application and will be used for communication purposes.
- All students are required to register. If your student is not at least 13 years old, a parent/guardian will need to sign-up/register with them.
- This is an excellent source for students and parents to keep up with what is happening in ELA.
- The app should be downloaded to an electronic device (phone, iPad, laptop, etc.).
- The easiest way to access the app: text the phone number 81010, and then enter my class remind code, @ELA8RSJH into the message box.



Google Classroom

CLASS CODES - GOOGLE CLASSROOM:

1st Period ELA: wh3rnex

2nd Period ELA: yc4mvnt

3rd Period ELA: 3s5sirr

4th Period ELA: tuafqx2

Google Classroom

- Google Classroom is how students connect to my digital classroom to see assignments and messages I have posted. It is a great platform because it gives students access to almost everything they need, whether they are at school or home.
- It is where I communicate with each class regularly and it will have the majority of the English assignments.
- Students will be responsible for checking Google Classroom daily.
- Google Classroom is provided for each student on their iPad.
- Google Classroom is for students only, however, parents can view the app on their child's iPad at any time. Additionally, parents can monitor their child's progress by registering for daily or weekly updates.

Academic Integrity - Honest behavior and integrity are expectations for all students. I am committed to creating an ethical academic atmosphere. Students will obtain an F grade for any essay/assignment that is plagiarized or copied. Consequently, they will also receive a behavioral referral to administration. Specific types of academic dishonesty, which will result in disciplinary action, are defined below:

- **Cheating** – any intentional giving or use of external assistance relating to an essay, assignment, examination, test, or quiz without the explicit permission of the teacher
- **Plagiarism** - the practice of taking someone else's words, work, or ideas and passing them off as one's own.
- **Unauthorized collaboration** – while collaboration is often encouraged, unauthorized collaboration is not permitted.

Due Dates and Late Work Policy

I grade late work as fast as I can. Please remember I have 120 students, so sometimes this could take a few weeks to get updated.

- **If a student is absent on the day that an ESSAY is due, they will only receive half credit.**
- It is the student's responsibility to obtain work they missed and turn it in. Students should check Google Classroom and the green basket in class for handouts. When in doubt, ALWAYS ASK ME.
- When absent, students need to contact me about extended time. Late work **will only be accepted late up to 2 weeks after the due date.**
- Students will receive a **ZERO GRADE** in PowerSchool **until the late work is turned in and graded.**
- Once late work is graded, PowerSchool will be updated and the ZERO GRADE will be removed.
- There are always exceptions due to extreme illness.

District Step System for Behavior Violations/Discipline/Dress Code:

The step system will be used for discipline in/out of the classroom. More information is on my website.

Step 1 - Warning

Step 2 - Teacher Conference

Step 3 - Parent Contacted via email or phone call

Step 4 - Office Referral

Step 5 - Office Referral

Class Expectations/Student Behavior

Any action which interferes with a student's ability to learn, interferes with a classmates ability to learn, or interferes with my ability to teach is inappropriate and will not be tolerated.

- ✓ **Respect-** Our classroom, the teacher, each other, equipment. No foul or offensive language.
- ✓ **Be Responsible-** Be on time, be prepared, and ask the teacher if you need help.
- ✓ **Integrity-** Copying of any work, from **ANY CLASS** will have consequences
- ✓ **Equipment-** Any misuse of equipment/computers/iPads will have consequences. Students are liable for the cost of damaged or lost equipment.
- ✓ **Students may be ineligible to attend extracurricular activities (dances, field trips, etc.) if they have a D or F in scholarship, effort, or citizenship.**

Categories and Grading Scale (Total Points)

All work is graded based on the mastery level demonstrated. Grades are posted on PowerSchool. All work is weighted equally.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Mastery Level</u>	<u>Student Statement</u>
A	100 - 90%	Exceeds Standard	"I can teach this to someone else."
B	89 - 80%	Meets Standard	"I can complete this on my own."
C	79 - 70%	Approaches Standard	"I can complete this with some help."
D	69 - 60%	Below Standard	"I can try to complete this."
F	59 - 00%	Incomplete	"I have not yet tried this."

*Work that completes everything as expected is graded as meeting standard (B).

Extra Help/Tutoring

- ✓ If students have questions or are struggling to understand concepts or to complete an assignment/project **they must communicate** their concerns to me as soon as possible.
- ✓ Communication is key to a successful academic and professional life.
- ✓ Students can make an appointment to meet with me either before/after school or during lunch.
- ✓ Please, never hesitate to ask for help or clarification as needed. I am here to support everyone!

In summary, assignments will be found in Google Classroom, grades will be posted in PowerSchool, and communications will be in the Remind app as well as Google classroom. Please refer to the Rio Seco website or my teacher google site for detailed information about the district dress-code and handbook. A copy of this syllabus will be posted on my website for the duration of the school year for your future reference. The best way to reach me is via email or the Remind app. Please feel free to message me with any questions.



Respectfully,
Shannon Vargas
8th Grade English Language Arts
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619-956-5575

Please return this page to school with both required signatures



I have read and understand the 8th grade English Syllabus.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____