

# Advanced English 1-2

Mrs. Anne Armstrong

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Office Hours in Room 1101 Monday – Thursday; 7:00 – 7:25

## ***Mission Statement:***

*To educate, engage, and empower all students to live ethically in an internationally-minded community. e3*

**Course Description** - This year we are in our second year of piloting the SpringBoard curriculum. SpringBoard was developed by the College Board as a way to help students develop skills needed for their AP classes. SpringBoard is a print and digital program developed for all students in grades 6-12. It provides a customizable pathway integrating rigorous instruction, performance-based assessment, and exemplary professional learning. (<http://springboardprogram.collegeboard.org>)

“In SpringBoard, you will explore compelling themes through reading, writing, discussions, performances, and research. You will closely read short stories, novels, poems, historical texts, and articles. You’ll also view and interpret films, plays, and audio texts while comparing them to their related print versions. With frequent opportunities to write creatively and analytically throughout the program, you will develop fluency, research skills, and an understanding of how to craft your writing based on audience and purpose. Through collaborative discussions, presentations, performances, and debates with your peers, you will deepen your understanding of the texts you’ve read and viewed and learn how to convey your ideas with clarity and voice.” (From Letter to the Student by SpringBoard)

## **9th Grade at a Glance:**

Each semester is divided into three units for a total of 6 units.

Unit 1 - Defining Style - What makes a good story? Elements of fiction, writing your own short story.

Unit 2 - Defining Style - What are the elements of a style analysis? Elements of film - writing a film analysis.

Unit 3 - Coming of Age in Changing Times - Historical Research, investigation of context.

Unit 4 - Coming of Age in Changing Times - Novel Study - writing a literary analysis

Unit 5 & 6 - Exploring Poetic Voices - What is Poetry? - Creating a Poetry Anthology & Oral Poetry Analysis

The Semester two final is the Poetry Anthology that will be a collection of your work from the poetry unit and an oral analysis similar to the IB exam.

## **Course Texts:**

\* SpringBoard Consumable Textbook

\* Books to be assigned including: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *All American Boys*, *The Hate U Give*, *I’m not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*

\* Various short stories and non-fiction articles

## **Course Materials:**

All supplies a student must have to perform class assignments, homework, or projects are provided by the school at no cost to the students. There are some items, however, that are recommended but not required. The majority of the material used in class are the same materials that will be handed out in AVID classes. Recommended materials throughout the year include; lined paper, highlighters, pen & pencil.

## **Independent Reading:**

Students are encouraged to always have a book with them. Semester 1 Final will be based upon an independent reading novel.

## **Standards**

SpringBoard is aligned with the common core standards for the state of California.

## **Comprehensive Grading**

Grades are earned based upon the work completed in the essay assignments, tests, and presentations. Rubrics are used to determine student’s skill level. Students are able to revise essays for a better grade, if they have completed all of the mandatory practice and tests.

## **Academic Support**

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:00-7:25, Lunch, and after school by appointment.  
Office Hours will change during the spring sports season due to swim practice.  
Tutoring: Tutoring is available during office hours and in the library after school  
E-mail: Feel free to e-mail me with questions or concerns. Please allow up to 48 hours to reply to e-mails. [aarmstrong@sandi.net](mailto:aarmstrong@sandi.net)  
Web-Site: [www.learnstrong.co](http://www.learnstrong.co)

## **Communication:**

Each day I post what we did in class, homework assignments and other important classroom information on my website; [www.learnstrong.co](http://www.learnstrong.co) Please take a moment to go to the site and look around. If you need to contact me, there is a form for to contact me along with a request for a conference.

## **Classroom Expectations:**

Instead of listing my expectations, look over your student handbook / calendar, I support and follow the policies stated on pages 12 – 22. However, there are a few concepts that I believe in and follow:

- **Take responsibility for your own learning.** I am here to teach, help, and support you. You must be willing to learn, participate, and do the work to the best of your ability.
- **Tolerance.** Understand and recognize that other people have different values, beliefs, and appearances. I will not tolerate language or actions that exclude or demean.
- **Plagiarism.** If you plagiarize an assignment, you will receive a zero. If you plagiarize twice, you will receive a failing grade for the semester. If you are confused about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask or check the handbook.
- **Class Attendance.** Attending class means being physically and mentally present—be involved! Be on time. Failure to do so will lead to dire circumstances, a drop in citizenship grade and /or a drop in academic grade.

## **School Wide Expectations and the Caver 5:**

The Caver 5 are five areas of focus for school expectations. Detailed information can be found in the student planner. The first week, students will focus on what they are. Caver 5 include:

- Dress Code - pg 20
- Attendance - pg 18
- Electronic Devices - pg 13
- Academic Honesty - pg 16
- Disruption of the Learning Environment - pg 19

## **Comprehensive Grading**

- Practice Work: In class work developed for our students to practice their skills.
- Essays: Each 6 weeks, students will have to complete a major essay. 75% of the 6 week grade will be determined by the essay.
  - Each Essay will have the following components.
    - Outline - done on google classroom
    - Beta Edit - First draft for peer edits - done on google classroom
    - Rough Draft - Second draft for teacher edits - done on google classroom
    - Revised Draft - Third draft for revisions - done on google classroom.
    - All of the above must be complete in order for students to continue to revise their work for their grades.
- Writing Tests: Writing tests will be given every Friday. 10% of the 6 week grade will be determined by the tests.
- Group work, presentations, and other important assignments make up the additional 15% of the grade

## **Absences/Tardies**

You will only be able to make up work missed during an excused absence. If you are absent on a day a major assignment (e.g., the final draft of an essay we have been working on for several weeks) is due, you are still responsible for submitting the assignment on the due date via a parent, friend or e-mail UNLESS the absence is related to an emergency. If you are absent on a day of a test or quiz, it is YOUR responsibility to arrange a time to make up the missed test or quiz within one week of the absence. If a pattern of test avoidance emerges, a parent conference will be called. Consequences for multiple tardies will include lowering of citizenship grades. Be sure to look on [www.learnstrong.co](http://www.learnstrong.co) for what we did in class.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade English Policies and Permission Form**

**STUDENTS**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's E-mail Address (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

I read and understand the classroom policies for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced English.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**PARENTS**

Please read through the course syllabus, then check appropriate boxes and sign below. If you choose not to check all boxes, please indicate your concerns in the "Notes" field at the bottom of this page.

- I have read and understand the classroom policies for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced English.
- I give my student permission to read the course texts for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced English.
- I give my student permission to watch "G," "PG," and "PG-13" movies that relate to classwork.
- My student and myself understand that it is illegal to take photos and/or videos and post to social media without written parent consent.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail Address (please give me your e-mail address if you would like to receive e-mail communication from me - please print legibly):

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number (please indicate the best time to contact you - please print legibly):

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Notes to Mrs. Armstrong: \_\_\_\_\_

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